



*Congresswoman
Mazie K. Hirono...*

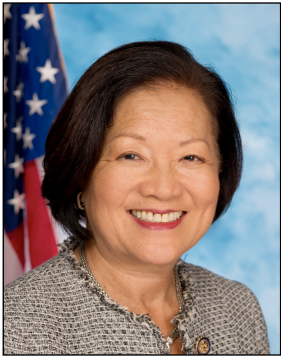


*Strengthening Hawaii's
Communities....*



... for Hawaii's Future.

Message from Congresswoman Hirono



Aloha,

Over the last six years, I've been humbled to work on a number of initiatives that have helped move our country forward. From passing health care reform—that protected Hawaii's pre-paid health care law—to working with colleagues across the aisle to save the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program that helps deliver water to farmers, to finishing work that I started as Lt. Governor by cosponsoring legislation that helped pave the way for South Korea to enter the visa waiver program which has helped increase the number of South Korean visitors to Hawaii.

Working together to make a difference for our families has been my mission—whether it's working on legislation to get our economy moving or cutting red tape to help constituents one on one. Like helping a retiree who became ill and fell behind on mortgage payments keep his home... or helping an orchid grower cut through the red tape and receive a certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ship his plants and flowers. In the first six months of 2012, my office has helped Hawaii families receive \$1.1 million in benefits due to them.

I've tried to bring the Hawaii spirit of *laulima*—cooperation—to my work in Congress. It's how I've been able to forge relationships with folks like Republican Rep. Don Young of Alaska—my “date” to the President's State of the Union this year. Don and I don't see eye to eye on a lot of issues. But when Native Hawaiian education was under attack, Don and I teamed up and offered an amendment to make sure these programs received necessary resources. We won overwhelmingly, which means Hawaii won.

This same spirit of cooperation helped me get several pieces of legislation I wrote passed into law: provisions of my Early Educator Loan Forgiveness Act were included in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, and my Kalaupapa Memorial Act, which will help establish a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park in honor of the 8,000 people forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa because of Hansen's Disease, was included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

When Hawaii State Department of Transportation officials told me how Hawaii was losing millions of dollars each year in airport fees, I said we're going to work together to make this right. I talked with the leadership of my Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as other House leaders and offered an amendment to fix this. It passed and was included as part of the legislation renewing the Federal Aviation Administration. Now we can expect an estimated \$6 million to come to Hawaii this year to help fix and modernize our busiest airports. Plus, we'll have millions more coming in the future to help move us ahead.

I was also proud to help our community colleges when they asked for my support for their workforce training grant application. The grant they were applying for was the result of legislation I co-sponsored. And guess what? Our community colleges won \$24.6 million—the largest in the country—and are now planning exciting new courses to help prepare our workers for jobs in clean energy, health care and agriculture.

I hope you'll continue to reach out with your ideas as well as your concerns—let me know how I can help and how we can move Hawaii forward, together.

Mazie

Strengthening Our Local Communities

Protecting Bellows Beach

More than 8,000 tons of trash. And no one to clean it up.

That's what residents of Waimanalo were facing when it came to cleaning up the pier dump site at Bellows Air Force Base.

A sign reading "danger" marked the spot of the former World War II dumpsite.

Members of the community came together to raise awareness of the problem and ask the military to clean up the site. But, the military didn't have the funds.

After learning of the problem, Congresswoman Hirono went to work and secured funding so the military could excavate and remove the landfill contents.

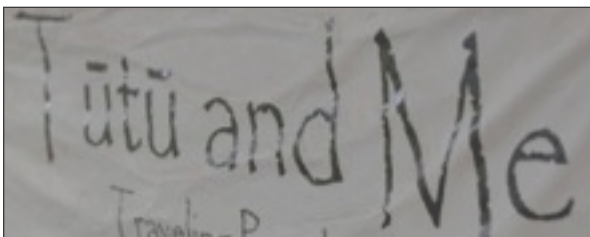
Now, the fenced site has been opened up and the Waimanalo community is free to enjoy Bellows Beach without worries of potential toxins or health risks.



Congresswoman Hirono listens to the military's plan to clean up a dump at Bellows Beach.

"The residents turned to U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono, who secured \$2 million for the cleanup in August 2007."

**Honolulu Star Bulletin,
February 21, 2009**



Tutu & Me, Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF)

In Hawaii, we know how important ohana is and how many of us rely on our extended multigenerational families for help. Tutu & Me, one of PIDF's most successful programs, helps children enter kindergarten ready to learn. It works with children and their caregivers – in many cases their tutu or grandparents. On average, keiki participating in the program make the equivalent of 17 months of developmental gains over the 9-month instruction period.

When PIDF wanted to expand Tutu & Me to help economically disadvantaged families on the Leeward Coast, Congresswoman Hirono was there to help and secured a \$500,000 investment from the Department of Health and Human Services. As a result, 97 children and 117 adults were able to participate in education programs as well as gain access to health and social services. This far exceeded PIDF's goals of 30 children and 30 adults participating.

Kauai's Kanuikapono Public Charter School

The three "R's" used to be the fundamentals of a good education: reading, writing, and 'rithmetic. To succeed in today's high-tech world, however, our keiki must have computer skills. That's why when the Kanuikapono Public Charter School on Kauai told Congresswoman Hirono that they needed help creating a Computer Technology and

Learning Resource Center, she went to work. Congresswoman Hirono convinced her colleagues that a small investment would reap great rewards at this charter school where many of the students have no access to a computer at home.

As a result, 14 computer stations were purchased and are being used by the school's 120 students in grades K-12. In addition, the school was able to establish a multi-media program and full recording studio. Students are learning how to edit and produce short films and public service announcements. With these resources, the students are able to learn



Photo courtesy of Hawaii State Chapter, American Red Cross

generates 45% of the non-profit's energy—saving approximately \$500,000 in electricity costs and redirecting those funds to provide more direct services to those in need.

Supporting Hawaii's Red Cross

For more than a century, the American Red Cross has assisted communities across the islands with immediate emergency needs from local fires to disaster response.

The Red Cross does so much for the people of Hawaii, yet their facilities were in drastic need of an upgrade. Congresswoman Hirono recognized that a photovoltaic system for the Red Cross' state headquarters could help the non-profit save money and even serve as a back-up system in case of an emergency. She helped get an investment from the federal government to enable Red Cross to purchase the system. The system, installed in 2011, now

Rural Bus Program for Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Counties

Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Counties have fast-growing public transportation systems, but the need has outpaced resources. In particular, Maui County bus ridership is one of the fastest growing in the country, with 2.3 million boardings from June 2010 to June 2011.

Rising fuel costs and increasing traffic congestion has meant that the demand for public transportation has exponentially grown on the neighbor islands. To meet this growth, these counties are in desperate need of additional buses.

That's why Congresswoman Hirono helped secure a federal investment of \$3.4 million in 2010 for the counties to purchase buses, install bus stops, and make other public transit investments. This builds upon the \$780,000 federal investment in 2008 and 2009 she secured that helped Hawaii Island purchase more buses, where many people have to travel long distances from their homes in rural areas to jobs in areas popular with visitors.

Kapolei Interchange Complex

The city of Kapolei on Oahu is the fastest growing urban area in Hawaii. As many Kapolei residents know, it is also a place with extreme traffic congestion. And, this second city is expected to experience continued population growth in the coming years, which will lead to even greater traffic issues.

To provide much-needed traffic relief, Congresswoman Hirono secured \$4.4 million toward construction of the Kapolei Interchange Complex to ease H-1's traffic out of the center of Kapolei.



In November 2011, the first phase of the project was completed—opening a new eastbound exit and entrance ramp to the H-1 Freeway.

Creating & Protecting Jobs

Congresswoman Hirono understands the struggles our families are facing. Because she's lived those struggles. When she was a small child in Japan, her mother endured a difficult home life at the hands of an abusive husband. Her mother plotted and planned in secret to get her children away. Congresswoman Hirono was nearly eight years old when her mother packed her and her brother onto a boat, and they literally escaped to America.

When they docked in Hawaii, they did so with little more than the clothes on their backs. It was a difficult life and Congresswoman Hirono's mother worked hard to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

That's why helping our families by getting our economy back on track and creating jobs are some of her top priorities.

Working for Hawaii

- **Investing in Hawaii's Airports:** For eleven years after passage of the Wendell Ford Aviation Investment & Reform Act for the 21st Century, Hawaii's airports have not been able to receive their fair share of the federal Airport Improvement Funds due to an unfair government formula. Working with state airport officials, Congresswoman Hirono successfully fought for an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration bill to correct this and ensure Hawaii's busiest airports receive millions of dollars over the next four years. The legislation to fix this situation was signed into law by President Obama on February 14, 2012. This will help Hawaii improve our airports without increasing costs for inter-island passengers.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with Transportation Department officials about the airport improvements she helped secure. The Hawaii Department of Transportation looks forward to using these new funds to modernize and update Kahului airport—including adding more lines through security to reduce the time it takes to arrive at your gate.



With Brand USA board member Roy Yamaguchi and Hawaii Tourism Authority's Mike McCartney, Congresswoman Hirono announces the VISIT USA Act.

- **Promoting Job Creation in Hawaii Through Visa Reform:** As Lieutenant Governor, Congresswoman Hirono worked to increase tourism to Hawaii by advocating for faster visa processing for South Korea visitors. As a member of Congress, she was able to finish this work by cosponsoring and helping to pass the 9/11 Commission Act. This legislation helped pave the way for South Korea's entrance into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Recent statistics show that in 2010, Hawaii welcomed more than 80,000 Korean visitors—a 59% increase over 2009. Congresswoman Hirono believes that common sense visa reforms can help boost our economy. That's why she introduced the VISIT USA Act. This bipartisan visa reform legislation will help us welcome more

Federal Commitments for Job Creation

Testing of Polymeric Hydrogels for Radiation Decontamination

In 2009, Congresswoman Hirono helped secure an investment to continue the development of the nuclear decontaminant DeconGel®. Unlike traditional decontamination solutions consisting of soap and water, this gel is applied to affected areas and once dry it can be peeled away to remove the radiation. DeconGel® eliminates the environmental impact of liquid runoff and the need to dispose of contaminated water.

The importance of DeconGel® was recently felt across the Pacific after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that hit the eastern coast of Japan.

CBI Polymers Inc, the Honolulu-based developer of DeconGel®, donated \$250,000 worth of products to help remove radioactive contaminants that leaked from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

The gel has also been used locally to help protect employees at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard decontaminate areas of the USS Missouri that were polluted with PCBs, which can create health complications in humans and animals.

Since 2008, Congresswoman Hirono has helped secure more than \$132 million in commitments for projects that have helped spur job creation in Hawaii. These projects include:

- \$81 million for transit projects and federal construction projects
- \$38.5 million in defense research & development projects
- \$5.9 million to address flood control
- \$4.5 million for Hawaii's harbors
- \$2.1 million for wastewater projects

visitors from China, India, Brazil, and Canada. It has the potential to create 6,000 jobs in Hawaii and pump an estimated \$600 million into our local economy. President Obama has come out in support of similar visa reforms. Congresswoman Hirono also supported passage of the 2012 federal spending bill, which provides the State Department with the ability to speed up visa processing in places like China, India, and Brazil—and bring more tourists to Hawaii and the U.S.



The attendees of the APEC Voices of the Future 2011 Conference, which included students of Hawaii high schools.

- **Promoting Relationships with Asia-Pacific Partners:** The Asia Pacific region accounts for 55 percent of the world's economic activity, and 2.7 BILLION consumers. To help make it easier for our country and economic partners in the region do business together, Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the APEC Business Travel Card Act. President Obama signed this legislation into law at the 2011 APEC Summit in Honolulu.
- **Tireless Advocate for Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** In December 2011, Congress passed legislation extending the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs—vital programs that provide opportunities for small businesses and innovative entrepreneurs to apply their ideas for the common good, while launching those ideas into successful job creating ventures. Congresswoman Hirono introduced similar legislation earlier in 2011 that would extend and expand opportunities to more entrepreneurs in Hawaii and across the nation. In 2010, she also cosponsored the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, which invests in research and education, particularly the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

- **Equal Pay for Equal Work:** Congresswoman Hirono believes in equal pay for equal work. That's why she cosponsored the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which makes it easier to challenge pay discrimination in court. It applies to workers who file claims of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability, and restores fairness to any employee who has been paid less than their coworkers. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill signed into law by President Obama.

TIGER GRANTS

- **Building a Better Hawaii:** As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congresswoman Hirono knows that making investments to fix and improve our roads, bridges, harbors and airports creates jobs. Working with the Hawaii delegation, she successfully advocated for the state of Hawaii's applications for highly competitive federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds to modernize and improve Pier 29 at Honolulu Harbor and continue work on completing Saddle Road on Hawaii Island.
- **Supporting Our Unemployed:** Congresswoman Hirono understands that in these difficult times, as we've faced record unemployment, it's been hard for many of our families and neighbors to find work. That's why she cosponsored the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 and the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009, which were signed into law to provide additional emergency unemployment compensation. Research has shown that unemployment dollars, which commonly are used for necessities like food or rent, tend to be recirculated quickly, which helps give a boost to our small businesses and economy.
- **Helping Hawaii Be the Seat of Diplomacy Between East and West:** With almost 4,000 participants a year, the East-West Center (EWC) has been a key institution in our nation's diplomacy efforts. EWC played a leading role in the 2011 APEC summit: chairing the first official meeting of the U.S. APEC Year, leading the committee that developed Hawaii's proposal to be named host, and providing essential research support. The federal commitments that EWC has received from 2007-2010 with the delegation's help funds its integral work supporting our nation's positions in Asia and the Pacific.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with Lilly Ledbetter after her namesake legislation was signed by President Obama.

Improving Our Schools

Born in Japan, Congresswoman Hirono came to this country when she was nearly eight years old not speaking any English. With the support of her public school teachers and her mother's high expectations, Congresswoman Hirono developed a love of reading and learning. This education enabled her to move from her beginnings as a first-generation immigrant in a single-parent household, to college and law school, to serving in Hawaii's legislature and as lieutenant governor, to her role today as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

But, she didn't do it alone. Congresswoman Hirono used work study and loans to help pay for college. She was also able to take out loans to pay for law school. For the next 15 years after earning her law degree, she was still paying off her loans.

Education creates opportunities, and that's why Congresswoman Hirono works to ensure that Hawaii's students get the quality education they deserve—one that helps students enter college and our workforce fully prepared. Investing in early education, Hawaii's public and charter schools, making college affordable, and helping all young people get the training they need – that's how we'll build a workforce for Hawaii's future.

When Congresswoman Hirono first came to Congress, she fought for a seat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee to make our schools stronger. Her education agenda includes:

- 1. Championing Quality Early Childhood Education**
- 2. Addressing Hawaii's unique education needs: Native Hawaiian education, Impact Aid for military families, and Compact Migrants**
- 3. Making College Affordable and Accessible for Hawaii Students and Families**
- 4. Training Hawaii Workers for Today's Jobs**
- 5. Investing in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)**
- 6. Keeping Hawaii's Teachers in the Classroom**



Congresswoman Hirono shares a moment with her sixth grade teacher, Yoshinobu Oshiro, who came to Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Gold Medal Awards Ceremony.



Maui Economic Development Board Program Director Isla Young, Congresswoman Hirono, Senator Daniel Inouye, and University of Hawaii professor Dr. Jeffrey Moniz attend the National Geographic Education Foundation Geography Legislator of the Year Award Ceremony. Congresswoman Hirono was named a "Legislator of the Year" for her steadfast support for improving K-12 geography education. In addition, her work has also been recognized by the national advocacy group First Focus Campaign for Children. The group named her a 2011 "Defender of Children."



Helping Our Keiki Get a Good Start in School

For a lot of keiki, school can be tough if they don't come to kindergarten ready to learn. Congresswoman Hirono's bipartisan Continuum of Learning Act assists in bridging this gap by helping educators from early childhood education learning programs and elementary schools work together to successfully transition young children to elementary school. Our keiki get the help they need and our teachers get the tools they need to collaborate. It's why groups like the Hawaii Business Roundtable, the Good Beginnings Alliance, and Easter Seals support this common-sense approach.

"Congresswoman Hirono's education initiative helps to prepare children to succeed when they get to kindergarten and to be successful throughout their entire school career. Our businesses need the best educated workforce possible and they realize that our children must be able to compete internationally."

Gary Kai, Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable

Working for Hawaii

- **Successfully Advocated for the Creation of the Obama Administration's Early Learning Challenge:** To help strengthen pre-K education across the country, in 2011 Congresswoman Hirono led a bipartisan coalition of more than 100 colleagues to support the creation of an Early Learning Challenge competition. The Obama Administration then directed \$500 million in fiscal year 2012 toward this effort. A similar effort led by Congresswoman Hirono in 2012 has yielded an additional \$133 million for the competition. The challenge has a similar structure as Congresswoman Hirono's PRE-K Act, which earned her recognition by the national advocacy organization Pre-K Now as a national "Pre-K Champion."
- **Encouraging More Top Teachers in Early Education:** We need to do everything we can to expand access to quality early education in Hawaii. That starts with having top teachers. To encourage more top undergraduates to enter the field, Congresswoman Hirono successfully had parts of her Early Educator Loan Forgiveness Act included in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. This legislation expanded the list of public service careers eligible for federal student loan forgiveness to include early educators who work in high-need programs.



Congresswoman Hirono hears from educators at Kaneohe Elementary School about early education programs.

Advocating for Hawaii

No matter where you live, and especially if your family serves our nation, all children deserve a quality education. Hawaii schools enroll more than 20,000 children whose parents are active-duty military, work on federal property, or live in federal low-rent housing. Hawaii cannot collect local property taxes from military bases or other federal properties. The Impact Aid program provides over \$30 million annually to reimburse the Hawaii Department of Education for this loss in tax revenue.

When the Majority on the House Education and the Workforce Committee this year proposed a change to the Impact Aid law that would cut \$10 to \$15 million from Hawaii public schools each year, Congresswoman Hirono worked behind the scenes to change this. This cut would have a devastating effect on Hawaii's schools. Congresswoman Hirono explained our unique need for Impact Aid and the Majority preserved funding for Hawaii in the final bill passed by the committee.

Congresswoman Hirono also believes we need to strengthen the Impact Aid program and is currently working with Republican Congresswoman Kristi Noem of South Dakota to do just that. The Local Taxpayer Relief Act (H.R. 1342) was developed with the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), an organization representing over 1,300 federally-impacted school districts nationwide. The bill speeds up payments by the U.S. Department of Education; allows same-year payments when a troop deployment prompts a sudden influx of military children; and allows states to more efficiently count the number of eligible students. Portions of the bill were included in broader legislation that passed the House and Senate Education Committees and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Supporting Compact Migrants

The United States has Compacts of Free Association (COFA) with countries throughout the Pacific region. In exchange for naval rights and the use of military bases in those areas, the United States allows citizens of these nations to come to the United States without a visa or U.S. citizenship status. While Hawaii has deep compassion for these families and we welcome the added diversity they bring, the federal government is not meeting its commitments to support their basic needs. For example, Hawaii's public schools are not reimbursed by the federal government for the costs of educating additional students who migrate under the compacts.

To address this issue, Congresswoman Hirono called for a Government Accountability Office study that showed states like ours face a multi-million dollar unfunded mandate. She has also asked President Obama for additional federal funds and other relief to help Hawaii.



Congratulations to the graduates of the Armed Services YMCA of Hawaii's Parent-Participation Preschool.

- **Protecting Native Hawaiian Education:** When the Republican Majority's 2011 spending bill cut investments for Native Hawaiian education, Congresswoman Hirono sprung into action. She reached across the aisle to her good friend Congressman Don Young (R-AK) to craft a bipartisan amendment to restore funding for these programs. Working together, they educated their colleagues about the importance of these education initiatives. As a result, the amendment passed overwhelmingly and Hawaii won. New grantees in 2011 alone will serve more than 30,000 Native Hawaiian students and parents. The Department of Education announced an allocation of \$34.2 million for Native Hawaiian Education in the 2011 and 2012 budgets based in part on the overwhelming bipartisan vote in the House for the Young-Hirono amendment.

- **Helping Native Hawaiian Students Graduate from College:** According to research by Kamehameha Schools, only about 46% of Native Hawaiians have received some level of post-high school education, which is lower than the state average of about 61%. The Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions of Higher Education Program, which provides mentoring, peer outreach, and student support to help Native Hawaiian students graduate college, helps beat these statistics.



College students at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

That's why Congresswoman Hirono secured federal commitments for this program totaling \$101 million from 2008 to 2010. In addition, she cosponsored the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which added \$15 million in automatic funding for this program each year.

- **Helped Families Afford College:** When the financial crisis hit, many students' dreams of a college education disappeared. To help middle class families hold onto that dream, Congresswoman Hirono supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provided up to \$10,000 in Tuition Tax Credits over four years. Thirty-eight thousand Hawaii families claimed this tax credit in 2011, each saving an average of \$2,000 for the year.
- **Helped Cut Student Loan Interest Rates:** As someone who paid for college with student loans and work study, Congresswoman Hirono understands firsthand why making college affordable is so important. That's why she cosponsored the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 that cut student loan interest rates of subsidized loans in half. Hundreds of dollars are saved each month by 29,000 Hawaii student loan borrowers as a result. On June 29, Congresswoman Hirono proudly supported compromise legislation that prevented rates from doubling this year.
- **Increased Pell Grants for College:** A college education shouldn't be just for those who can afford it. That's why Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act which today helps more than 17,000 Hawaii students receive Pell grants.



Professor Kusuma Cooray of Kapiolani Community College's Culinary Arts Program discusses her students' success with Congresswoman Hirono.

- **Helped Our Community Colleges Expand Workforce Development Training:** If we want to have the jobs of the future, we need to make sure our workers have the skills. That's why Congresswoman Hirono was proud to lend her support to the UH Community College Consortium's grant application for workforce development. Hawaii won \$24.6 million – the largest grant award in the nation. The increased investment came through the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored.

• **Expanded Community Service Opportunities in Hawaii:** In these tough economic times, our communities depend on volunteers to help our friends and families in need.

Federal Commitments for Hawaii's Keiki

The Ka Wili Pu Project for Maui's At Risk Youth

One in every four adolescents in Maui County faces serious risks such as substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, failure in school, and involvement with the juvenile justice system.

The Ka Wili Pu Project is a dropout prevention program at Maui High and Baldwin High Schools. Spearheaded by Maui Economic Opportunity and the Hawaii Department of Education, the project requires students to undertake a service learning program in the community.

Ka Wili Pu was started with a \$350,000 commitment that Congresswoman Hirono was able to help secure in the 2010 Department of Justice spending bill. In the past two years, about 300 students have enrolled in the program and 85% of participants have graduated or been able to move on to the next grade.

Since 2008, Congresswoman Hirono has helped secure commitments of more than \$146 million for Hawaii's keiki:

- \$143.3 million for Native Hawaiian education and cultural programs
- Nearly \$1.3 million for technology assistance and educational activities
- \$908,900 for our youngest keiki and early learners
- \$575,000 to support mentoring programs throughout Hawaii

Congresswoman Hirono, a strong champion of community service, helped introduce the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to expand AmeriCorps programs including VISTA, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, and Teach for America. The Corporation for National & Community Service, which coordinates these programs, has committed more than \$7.4 million in 2011-2012 to help Hawaii's communities. In 2011, these service learning programs provided 250 homebound seniors with assistance, tutored or mentored more than 480 children with special needs and 10,000 disadvantaged children and youth, and provided almost 416,000 hours of service.



The Waiialua High students of Team 359, aka the Hawaiian Kids, demonstrate their award-winning robotics skills to Congresswoman Hirono.

- **Encouraging Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education:** Congresswoman Hirono knows that if we want to build the strongest workforce in the world, our kids need to have the strongest education. To make sure our schools are teaching 21st century skills, she introduced legislation that encourages college students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math to become teachers. She also cosponsored the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, which President Obama signed into law in 2010. This law strengthens and expands federal STEM research and education programs.
- **Keeping Hawaii's Teachers in the Classroom:** Congresswoman Hirono believes that in tough times, it's more important than ever to make investments in education. That's why she supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which helped provide more than \$59.3 million to Hawaii to save or create more than 2,000 education jobs. She also supported the Education Jobs Fund, which President Obama signed into law in 2010. This provided Hawaii with an additional \$40 million that has saved or created more than 360 education jobs.

Working Toward a Sustainable Energy Future

How can we help make Hawaii's economy stronger? By helping Hawaii become less dependent on the mainland for energy and food. Right now we rely on imports for 90 percent of our energy and an estimated 85 percent of our food. Congresswoman Hirono believes if we speed up the development of renewable energy technologies, we can wean ourselves from oil dependence. We'll also create local companies and local jobs and keep more of our money in Hawaii. As a member of the Congressional Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition she's been working to help move Hawaii and our nation closer to a clean energy future.

Unfortunately, when it comes to developing clean energy, too many in Congress disagree. They want to pursue an energy policy that's outdated and wrong. Just look at the budget passed by House Republicans – it would continue giving the oil companies billions in subsidies yet cut investments in clean energy that have helped Hawaii companies and provide a path to energy independence. We know we need a different approach. That's why Congresswoman Hirono worked with clean energy leaders to create a plan on what Hawaii – and the nation – needs from Washington to become more self-sustainable.

“People in Hawaii know that we can't remain dependent on imported oil for our energy needs. Pacific Biodiesel has shown that homegrown renewable energy companies can be sustainable—and grow and create jobs here in Hawaii. Congresswoman Hirono's plan is about laying the groundwork for a sustainable economy that supports these types of businesses, engages all stakeholders, and helps to keep us focused on continuing the progress we've made together.”

Kelly King, vice president of Pacific Biodiesel

“In Hawaii, we know what the future looks like a lot sooner than the rest of the country. The path our nation needs to take is one where we level the playing field for clean energy. A plan like this that looks to the future and helps invest in a wide range of clean energy options is how we'll make Hawaii energy self-sustainable.”

Warren Bollmeier, president of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance

To help Hawaii become more energy independent, the plan calls for:

- 1. Ending subsidies to oil companies and instead investing in Hawaii's clean energy industry.**
- 2. Helping our families manage prices at the pump during our clean energy transition.**
- 3. Making sure our workforce gets the training needed for the clean energy jobs of tomorrow.**
- 4. Helping families and businesses reduce costs and increase energy efficiency.**

To read the full report, visit: http://hirono.house.gov/UploadedFiles/050412_Sustainability_Plan_FINAL.pdf. In addition, please send your ideas on how we can build Hawaii's sustainable future to sustainablehawaii@mail.house.gov.

Working for Hawaii

- **Leading America Toward Energy Independence:** Congresswoman Hirono was proud to cosponsor the bipartisan 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act to help move our nation forward and save our families money on their energy bills.

This landmark legislation:

- ▶ Increased energy efficiency standards for consumer products, such as light bulbs, dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers.
 - ▶ Increased energy efficiency standards for buildings.
 - ▶ Increased the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards for cars, light trucks, and SUVs to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. This was the first increase in CAFÉ standards since 1975. These increased standards were projected to save consumers roughly \$1,000 per year at the pump.
 - ▶ Set a new renewable fuels standard for transportation fuels that requires annual increases in the use of biofuels and helps decrease our dependency on foreign oil. The increases began to be phased in during 2008 and will continue through 2022.
 - ▶ Promoted more research and production of clean energy. For example, the legislation provided funding for the “Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Research, Development, and Analysis” grant program. Through this program, projects like the Kauai Island Utility Coop’s installation of smart meters and the University of Hawaii Systems’ research and training programs in smart grid technologies received funding.
 - ▶ Helped more than 700 low-income families in Hawaii save money by making their homes more energy efficient through the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- **Putting America on the Road to Recovery through Clean Energy:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which Congresswoman Hirono supported, invested in projects throughout Hawaii that have the potential to revolutionize our energy use.
 - ▶ More than 100 Hawaii businesses including Aloha Shoyu, HonBlue, Island Dairy, Inc., and Common Ground Kauai received approximately \$63 million in grants for installing clean energy projects that would support their work.



- ▶ Significant investments to modernize our electrical grid were made, including:
 - Hawaiian Electric Company received \$5 million to help better manage electricity in East Oahu.
 - The Maui Smart Grid Project received \$7 million.
 - Kauai Island Utility Cooperative received \$5.5 million for their smart grid project.
- ▶ The Kahuku Wind Project on Oahu received \$117 million in innovative financing and loans, building on investments made in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. Kahuku Wind produces enough energy to power up to 7,700 homes on Oahu.



Discussing the Kahuku Wind project's installation of the wind turbines beside one of the propellers to be installed.

Federal Commitments for Hawaii's Sustainable Future

Working Toward Energy & Agricultural Sustainability

Due to our geographic isolation, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to supply shortages. The development of local energy production capacity to improve the state's energy security is urgently needed. Hawaii's year-round growing season, available agricultural lands, and high-quality aquatic environments are encouraging signs that our state would be an ideal location for bioenergy production.

When Congresswoman Hirono heard about a project through the University of Hawaii to research sustainable energy crops, she understood the importance of the project to our state economy and was able to help secure \$1.4 million in 2009 and \$6 million in 2010. Another part of the project assisted Hamakua Springs on Hawaii Island by evaluating how a hydroelectric system would reduce processing and packaging costs for farmers. The hope is that with lower costs, farmers will see increased profit and more people will become involved with farming. Through this project and others like it, we can move closer to achieving energy self sufficiency in Hawaii.

Since 2008, Congresswoman Hirono has worked to invest nearly \$20.6 million for a sustainable future in Hawaii.

- ▶ ARRA helped Hawaii lead the way on getting people into electric cars with a \$4.5 million investment. This helped with the installation of more than 200 new electric vehicle charging stations at more than 80 locations statewide, the state will now have one charging station for every 5,500 residents. Part of that funding also helped the state offer \$1.4 million for car and charging station rebates. Since March 2011, the owners of more than 370 electric vehicles and almost 250 chargers have received rebates. The rebate offer was so successful that the state has added another \$350,000 to the program and pushed the deadline for the rebates to November 1, 2012.

- **Helping Small Businesses Save on Energy:** Working with 16 House and Senate colleagues, Congresswoman Hirono helped encourage leaders in the Senate and House to invest in a \$1 million retrofitting initiative for small businesses. This amendment, which Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored, was included in the appropriations bill for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development that President Obama signed into law in December 2011.
- **Encouraging Military Investments in Hawaii-Made Energy:** To help drive innovation and provide a stable, national market for clean fuels, Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored legislation to extend military



Cellana project managers share their biofuel technology with Congresswoman Hirono at their Kona facility.

contracts for advanced biofuel purchases from 5 years to 15 years. Provisions expressing Congress's support for the DOD's use of long-term contracts was included in both the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act and the consolidated appropriations bill that were both signed into law by President Obama in December of 2011.

- **Supported an Operational Energy Strategy:**

Recognizing that its reliance on fossil fuels not only drained financial resources but also placed lives in danger on the battlefield, the U.S. military has endeavored for the first time to develop and implement an Operational Energy Strategy, which was supported by Congresswoman Hirono. The law established an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs. The military is currently implementing the Operational Energy Strategy on a service-wide basis—and doing so successfully. Each service has budgeted significant funds for implementing energy efficiency measures, research and development of new fuel sources, and other programs. Hawaii's installations have been particular leaders, with the Navy launching the first alternative fueling stations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, as well as sustainability initiatives undertaken by the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with Deputy Director Jan Gouveia and Comptroller Dean Seki of the State Department of Accounting and General Services to learn more about the solar panels installed on the roof of the Kalanimoku Building.

- **Fighting Speculation that Drives Up Energy Costs:** Congresswoman Hirono supported the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which gave the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and Securities and Exchange Commission additional authority to address speculation in energy markets. She has also fought to see that the CFTC and SEC receive enough funding to carry out these new responsibilities.
- **Developing Green Technology:** Congresswoman Hirono has supported developing Smart Grid technology and battery research which will help incorporate renewable energy on the existing electric grid and store energy from sources like solar and wind more efficiently. She encouraged President Obama to include a Smart Grid Hub in his 2013 budget. A Smart Grid Hub would complement existing federal energy research hubs, which act as “think tanks” seeking answers to some of the toughest energy challenges our nation faces. She also supports legislation to provide tax incentives for battery technology installations and to provide innovative financing and loans for clean energy projects through the U.S. Department of Energy. Such programs have helped to finance the Kahuku Wind project on Oahu.

Supporting Locally Grown

Hawaii has a long agricultural history, including traditional Hawaiian agricultural, fishing, hunting, and gathering practices; export-focused plantation agriculture and large-scale ranching; and, with the decline in our export-focused sugar and pineapple industries, a growth in smaller-scale diversified agriculture. Challenges that were difficult but manageable for plantation agriculture—like transporting products to markets, developing water resources, supporting research that solves production problems—are far harder for small farmers growing a wide variety of crops.

At the same time, we are importing most of our food while farmers struggle to find markets. Our long-standing agriculture industries, like sugar, macadamia nuts, coffee, and ranching face increased challenges. Despite, and perhaps because of, the challenges of our geographic isolation, some agricultural innovators have found ways to thrive.

While we are dependent on imports, we are not a dependent people. That's why Congresswoman Hirono worked with agriculture leaders across the state and this spring released a sustainability plan outlining how Washington can help Hawaii become more food self-sufficient.

The four point plan looks to help provide a solid foundation for farming in Hawaii and grow this industry by:

- 1. Assisting in meeting the basic needs for Hawaii's agriculture industry by helping deliver water to farms and ranches; continuing research on Hawaii pests, diseases and crops; and helping overcome high production costs.**
- 2. Encouraging increased production of Hawaii's food by helping farmers find a market that covers their costs and returns a reasonable profit. Also, helping "grow" more farmers.**
- 3. Supporting our agricultural exports that provide jobs here by advocating for the continuation of the U.S. sugar program and crop insurance programs that help the macadamia nut and coffee industries.**
- 4. Supporting new opportunities in agriculture like agritourism that strengthen the Hawaii brand.**



Taro farm in Kahaluu.



Kohala Watershed.

"Hawaii's vibrant local food community is committed to bringing the freshest products from our farms to Hawaii's kitchens and tables. Buying and eating local is a great way to keep money circulating in the Hawaii's economy, enjoy fresher and healthier food, reduce our environmental footprint, and help maintain our agricultural heritage and open spaces. We can do better than processed and imported foods; such as our local grass fed beef, and our Natural Farming Pork that is healthier tastier for our consumers. Mahalo to Congresswoman Hirono for highlighting and supporting the growing movement toward local food sustainability."

David Fuertes, Co-Owner Fuertes Ranch on Hawaii Island



Working for Hawaii

- **Championing the USDA's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program:** This program is especially appropriate for Hawaii because it can address large-scale projects that service a variety of farmers. No other federal agricultural program can meet Hawaii's needs in this regard. Congresswoman Hirono has helped secure more than \$8.7 million from 2007 to 2010 for the projects under the program, including the Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed Project, which will service some 150 diversified farmers and ranchers on Hawaii Island; the Upcountry Maui Watershed Project; the Lahaina Watershed (flood control) Project; and the Wailuku-Alenaio Watershed (flood control) Project in Hilo. In 2011, in the face of efforts to eliminate this program, Congresswoman Hirono led an effort to protect the initiative. She was successful in getting strong bipartisan support to restore \$3 million to the program, which would have been cut.
- **Protecting Our Crops:** Congresswoman Hirono worked to get Hawaii added to the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program, which among other benefits provides a federal cost-share of up to 75 percent for installation of new on-farm irrigation systems. The program was designed to help states that are underserved by federal crop insurance, but Hawaii wasn't one of the 15 states covered. The USDA determined that Hawaii wasn't underserved because we have fairly high usage of the few federal crops insurance products available. Congresswoman Hirono explained to members of the House Agriculture Committee that Hawaii was underserved because there were so few policies available, and, as a result, Hawaii was added to the AMA program in the 2008 Farm Bill.
- **Advocated for Specialty Crops:** As a member of the Congressional Specialty Crops Caucus, Congresswoman Hirono has advocated for increased funding for specialty crops, which includes virtually everything that Hawaii grows. Traditionally, most of the Farm Bill crop funding has gone to support the so-called program crops: corn, wheat, cotton, rice, soybeans. Congresswoman Hirono and other members of congressional districts that produce fruits and vegetables, which represent more than half the value of U.S. agriculture, were successful for the first time in the 2008 Farm Bill in securing significant funding for these grants. Some Hawaii grants provided under this program include:
 - ▶ UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to provide specialty crop farmers with on-farm food safety training, education, outreach, and technical assistance.

- ▶ Kokua Hawaii Foundation’s AINA in the Schools Program to provide educational materials and cafeteria procurement and preparation guides highlighting our state’s specialty crops for use by Hawaii schools participating in the federal Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program.
- ▶ Maui County Farm Bureau to implement a “Grown on Maui” program to provide a market edge for Maui farmers.

- **Support for research at the University of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center (PBARC) at UH-Hilo:** Congresswoman Hirono has secured millions of dollars in funding for the College of Tropical Agriculture and for tropical agriculture research. She also secured funding for floriculture research, and research on pineapple, papaya, sugarcane, and exotic tropical fruit.

- **USDA Fruit Fly Sterilization and Rearing Facility:** Congresswoman Hirono has also successfully advocated for and secured funding for maintaining a Hawaii-based capability for raising sterile fruit flies to combat infestations of the Mediterranean fruit fly as well as the other three non-native fruit flies now established in Hawaii.

- **Supported Hawaii’s Four Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council:** Hawaii’s RC&Ds (Garden Island RC&D, Tri-Isle RC&D, Big Island RC&D, and Oahu RC&D Councils) have provided community-based leadership for agricultural development for many years. Congresswoman Hirono supported base funding for the national RC&D funding every year and was successful in securing additional funds in the House for Hawaii’s RC&Ds. Unfortunately, Congress didn’t fund RC&Ds in fiscal year 2011; Congresswoman Hirono is working with a group of like-minded members to support resuming funding for this program.

- **Honeybee Protection/Varroa Mite Containment Program:** Honeybees are vital to the agriculture industry in Hawaii as they pollinate many of the crops grown in Hawaii, such as macadamia nuts, fruits, and vegetables. One of the most devastating pests is the Varroa mite, which has been linked to the declining population of honeybees on the mainland United States. A declining honeybee population will lead to reduced pollination of crops and may lead to poor yields and low quality produce. The island of Hawaii has



Congresswoman Hirono joins flower growers from across Hawaii at the prestigious 2012 Philadelphia Flower Show.



David Fuertes, a Kohala Farmer on Hawaii Island, talks Natural Farming and growing organic with Congresswoman Hirono.



Farmer Jesse Delaros shows Congresswoman Hirono 4.5 foot tall okra in Waianae valley, grown through natural farming techniques.

even become one of the world’s major suppliers of clean queen bees that are used to repopulate hives devastated by Varroa mites. In 2007 and 2008, Varroa mites were discovered on Oahu and Hawaii Island. Congresswoman Hirono has sought to protect our island agriculture through securing funding to suppress the Varroa mite in our state and prevent further infestations on other islands.

- **Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers:**

Because our farmers and ranchers are so far removed from the marketplace, Congresswoman Hirono and Senator Inouye worked with the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to ensure that the “Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farms and Ranchers” was included in the 2008 Farm Bill that became law. This initiative helps farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas like Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa by defraying the costs of inputs like fertilizer and feed as well as transporting produce, meat and other products to the mainland. In May, the Hawaii delegation announced \$1.996 million in payments for fiscal year 2011 will be made, helping level the playing field for Hawaii’s farmers and ranchers. Congresswoman Hirono is continuing to champion this program as the new Farm Bill is written.

- **Promoting Natural Farming:** Congresswoman Hirono has been impressed by the results generated from using Korean “natural farming” techniques. One advantage is that the techniques rely on materials at hand and don’t utilize imported fertilizers. Because of the interest in these methods among Hawaii farmers, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service set aside some funds from the extra grant monies that the Hawaii Congressional Delegation was able to help secure for Agricultural Development in fiscal year 2010.

Congresswoman Hirono learned that funds had not been distributed to farmers on Oahu. After following up with the USDA, the funding issues was resolved and the farmers who won the grants were notified.

Federal Commitments for Hawaii's Farmers and Ranchers

Helping Our Farmers Build a Sustainable Hawaii

Since 1910, the Lower Hamakua Ditch has brought water to farmers. The water was first used to grow sugarcane, but now is essential to growing a wide variety of diversified crops as well as to support dairy and beef operations. When Hamakua Sugar Company shut down in 1993, so did its upkeep of this 26-mile water delivery system.

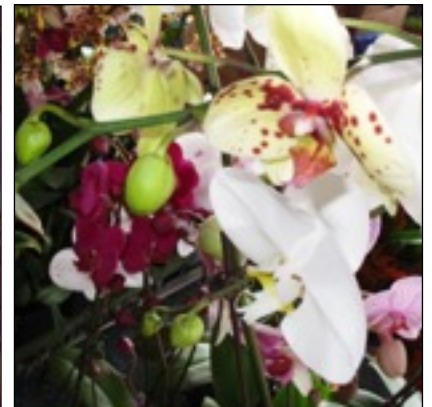
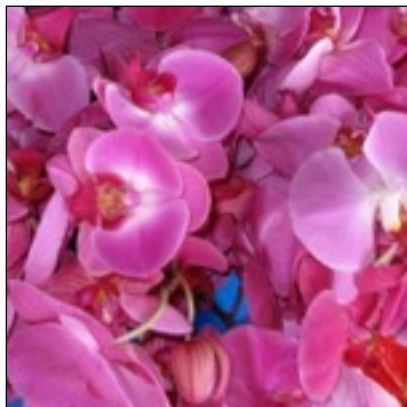
In the mid-1990s, a group of community members, working with the Cayetano-Hirono administration, local leaders, and Senator Inouye, came together to rehabilitate the ditch. They saw the promise the ditch brought – an opportunity to diversify our local agriculture and help grow more of our own food. Congresswoman Hirono joined their efforts, helping secure a commitment of \$3 million to help with the multi-million upgrade that has helped to reduce water losses in the system and to install new pipes, flumes, and other irrigation structures. But more than that, her efforts in combination with the work of so many others has helped over 100 farmers and ranchers get the water they need.

Since 2008, Congresswoman Hirono has helped secure commitments of more than \$70.7 million for locally grown initiatives in Hawaii, including:

- \$34.8 million in agricultural research, development, and outreach
- Nearly \$9.8 million for agricultural construction and design projects
- Nearly \$9.7 million for agricultural water supply projects
- \$8.1 million for agricultural inspections and invasive species control
- Nearly \$5.7 million in assistance for farmers
- \$2.5 million for agricultural development in Hawaii

Helping Hawaii's Families

An orchid grower who contacted Congresswoman Hirono's office was frustrated because he was certified to ship orchid plants with flowers on them but needed a second certification from USDA to ship the flowers from the same plants in his certified nursery. After Congresswoman Hirono contacted USDA, the grower was certified to send flowers separately. USDA also indicated that they would be looking at revising its rules based on this case.



Caring for America's Veterans

Hawaii is home to approximately 24,000 veterans over the age of 55. Our veterans have served us bravely and unselfishly, putting physical and mental health on the line for America. In recognition of this service, Congresswoman Hirono believes we must keep our commitments to our veterans and help them transition into civilian life.

Working for Hawaii

- **Supporting Veterans in Higher Education:** The World War II GI Bill helped open the doors to college for many of the Greatest Generation who never thought that possible. Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the Post-9/11 GI Bill to help a new generation of veterans pay for college or get the job training they need. The bill allows veterans, service members, reservists and Guard members to earn education benefits up to the cost of an in-state, undergraduate education at a public institution—including job training or vocational credentials. The Post-9/11 GI Bill also allows for the transfer of unused benefits to eligible career service members' families.



Photo courtesy of U.S. VETS

Veterans spent time with Congresswoman Hirono during her visit to U.S.VETS-Barbers Point. U.S.VETS in Kapolei offers homeless veterans a place to call home—teaching them new skills and even providing something as simple as a mailing address can make all the difference for these veterans. One grateful veteran told Congresswoman Hirono that for the first time in years, he has a mailing address. She was proud to send him one of his first postmarked letters.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with some of Hawaii's veterans who travelled to Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Gold Medal Awards Ceremony.

- **Honoring Our Heroes:** “This recognition of bravery, patriotism and unquestioned loyalty is long overdue,” said Congresswoman Hirono when the House of Representatives passed legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Army “Go For Broke” 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service for their acts of valor during World War II.

At a time when many of their fellow Americans questioned their loyalty to the United States, these Japanese-American soldiers enlisted and put their lives on the line to defend our freedom overseas while fighting against fear and discrimination at home. Congresswoman Hirono was humbled to cosponsor this legislation to bestow Congress' highest civilian honor. The “Go For Broke” regiments are the most decorated in United States military history for its size and length of service earning 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars and more than 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions.

- **Helping Veterans Return to Work:** Congresswoman Hirono believes that it's only right to stand up for our service members who so bravely stood up for us. That's why she cosponsored the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in November 2011. The law offers tax credits for employers who hire veterans who have been out of work for a long period of time.

- **Fighting to Help Reunite Filipino WWII Vets and their Families:** For too many of our Filipino World War II veterans, reuniting with their families is still out of reach. That’s why Congresswoman Hirono was proud to support legislation that was passed by the House that could help reunite thousands of Filipino families by cutting the waiting time and doubling the number of visas awarded to people from the Philippines. She has also introduced bipartisan legislation to help reunite Filipino World War II veterans in the United States with their families in the Philippines.



The Fil-Am Veterans of WWII, led by Commander Francisco Obina, met with Congresswoman Hirono in her Hawaii office. The veterans shared their support of “The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011,” which was cosponsored by Congresswoman Hirono.

- **Caring for Veterans’ Health:** For the first time, Congress successfully secured a stable and uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans under 2009 legislation Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored. Congresswoman Hirono also supported the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act, which was signed into law by President Bush in 2007 to improve benefits for veterans with damaged vision.
- **Looking Out for Veterans’ Families:** While the Military Order of the Purple Heart has had a Ladies Auxiliary of the Purple Heart, there was no place in the organization for the husbands of female members. That’s why Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007, which enables the spouses and siblings of a Purple Heart medal recipient to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America as an associate member. This law honors the women of our Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart defending our nation.

Helping Hawaii’s Families

- When a Vietnam War veteran was diagnosed with a severe service-related disease that left him unable to work, he contacted Congresswoman Hirono for help with the VA. As a result of the congresswoman’s efforts, the veteran was able to receive the full benefits he deserved.
- Sharon Dahl of Maui, a widow of a Vietnam War veteran who received survivor benefits after a year of frustration, wrote Congresswoman Hirono: “The VA had misplaced my application for survivor benefits and you were able to contact the right agent to remedy this oversight... Your actions on my behalf are greatly appreciated.”
- For most of his life, Punaluu’s Ronald Ebert did not know that he had earned recognition from his military service in Vietnam. Ebert was informed that medals would be difficult to receive without the advocacy and support of a member of Congress. He turned to Congresswoman Hirono in 2009, and six months later, he was awarded the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with a single bronze star device, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.
- A retired marine was due back payments from the Social Security Administration from 2006, but had not filed a claim due to his name change and foreign residency. Within two days of Congresswoman Hirono’s inquiry, his back payments were processed.



Congresswoman Hirono presents Punaluu resident and Vietnam veteran Robert Ebert with the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal in Hilo.

Advocating for Native Hawaiians

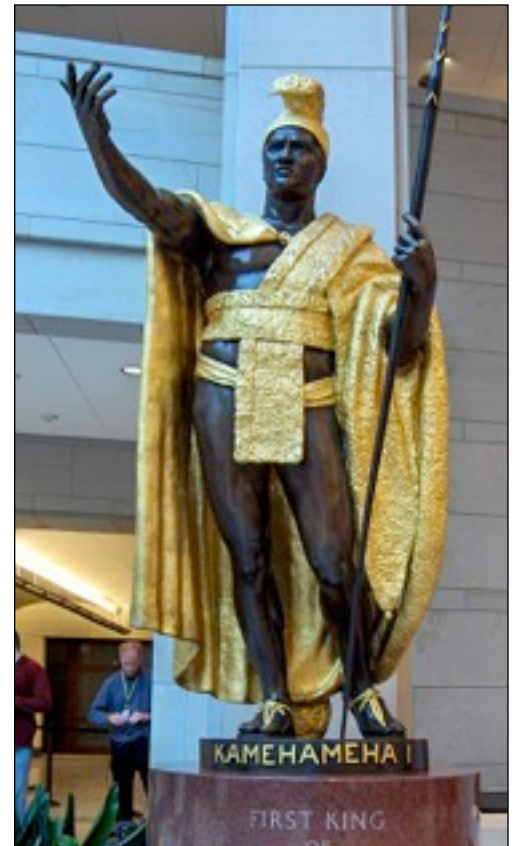
Throughout her 30 years of public service to Hawaii, Congresswoman Hirono has always believed that how we treat our native peoples reflects our values and who we are as a country.

Working for Hawaii

- **Advocating for Native Hawaiian Recognition and Self-Determination:** One hundred years after the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, President Bill Clinton signed the Apology Resolution which officially acknowledged for the first time America's culpability in deposing Queen Liliuokalani and upheld the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people and their right to self-determination.

Unlike American Indians and Alaska Natives, the U.S. government does not explicitly recognize the right of Native Hawaiians to govern themselves. To redress this inequity, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, with the support of the entire Hawaii Congressional delegation, has introduced in each Congress since 2000 legislation to provide a process for federal recognition of a Native Hawaiian governing entity.

Since she was first elected, Congresswoman Hirono has cosponsored the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (NHGRA) in each Congress. Working with then-Congressman Abercrombie, Congresswoman Hirono testified in support of NHGRA before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources. She also successfully defended the bill on the floor of the House against attacks from those who sought to deny Native Hawaiians the rights accorded to the other indigenous peoples of what is now the United States. The bill passed the House in October 2007 and again in February 2010 and was referred to the Senate. In the 112th Congress (2011-2012), Congresswoman Hirono has renewed the Hawaii Congressional delegation's effort for passage of the NHGRA and is the lead sponsor of the House version of the bill securing a record 51 bipartisan cosponsors. Congresswoman Hirono remains committed to the bill's ultimate passage.



The King Kamehameha I statue stands in Emancipation Hall.



Congresswoman Hirono talks with members of the Koolauloko Hawaiian Civic Club during one of its "Celebrate Kaneohe 2012" events.

- **Supporting Communities by Protecting Health and Housing Programs**

It is our kuleana as a nation to stand up for programs that are critical to addressing the health and housing needs that disproportionately affect the Native Hawaiian community, just as the federal government has committed to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

In 2007, Congresswoman Hirono joined with then-Congressman Abercrombie to defeat a plan to strip the Native Hawaiian Housing Program from the Transportation, Housing, and Urban



The groundbreaking ceremony of the 18-home Kaupuni subdivision in Waianae Valley, a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands project and the nation's first net-zero-energy community.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) loan guarantees for low-income Native Hawaiian families. This provision reduces the cost of homeownership for Native Hawaiian families and reduces the risk of default by lowering their monthly mortgage payments.

The Native Hawaiian health care program, which was reauthorized as part of the Affordable Care Act, has been continuously funded since 1988. Native Hawaiians experience high mortality rates from diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and hypertension. In 2009, Congresswoman Hirono introduced legislation to revise and extend the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act to 2014, helping to improve the health care status of the Native Hawaiian community. Congresswoman Hirono has also advocated in the House for Native Hawaiian Health funding. The program has received an average of more than \$13 million each year from 2007 through 2011. The grant serves Native Hawaiians throughout the State of Hawaii through six Native Hawaiian health delivery organizations: Ho‘ola Lāhui Hawai‘i, Hui Mālama Ola Nā ‘Ōiwi, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Ke Ola Mamo, Na Pu‘uwai, and Papa Ola Lōkahi.

Congresswoman Hirono also introduced the House version of the Native Hawaiian Medicaid Coverage Act of 2011, which would provide 100 percent federal Medicaid coverage for Native Hawaiians, consistent with the reimbursement for care provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives under Medicaid.

- **Educating Our Keiki**

Congresswoman Hirono believes that education is the key to economic opportunity. That’s why she has continued to advocate strongly for Native Hawaiian education despite efforts in Congress to eliminate funding.

When the Republican spending plan for fiscal year 2011 completely eliminated funding for the Native Hawaiian Education Act, Congresswoman Hirono joined with Congressman Don Young of Alaska to restore funding eligibility for this program and for the Alaska Native education program. The Young-Hirono Amendment passed on a bipartisan vote of 313-171; the Native Hawaiian Education Program ultimately received \$34 million in funding for fiscal year 2011.

Development Appropriations Bill of 2007. She argued on the House floor that Native Hawaiians experience significant housing problems related to affordability, overcrowding, and structural inadequacy. The House overwhelmingly defeated the amendment and preserved the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

Congresswoman Hirono has also helped secure funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, which has been funded at around \$13 million annually over the last several years.

Recognizing the success of the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program and working closely with the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Congresswoman Hirono introduced the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2011. Her bill reauthorizes the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program and expands access to U.S.



Every year since being elected to Congress, Congresswoman Hirono has submitted requests to the House Appropriations Committee in support of funding for education programs that benefit Native Hawaiians. Some of the funding she helped to secure over her tenure includes:

- ▶ \$33-\$34 million each year for Native Hawaiian Education Act programs.
- ▶ \$500,000 for the Native Hawaiian Arts and Culture Program, which focuses on assisting Native Hawaiian practitioners to foster a greater sense of cultural awareness and help keep Hawaiian traditions strong.
- ▶ Between \$7 million and \$9.6 million annually for Native Hawaiian-serving institutions through the Departments of Education and Agriculture.
- ▶ Approximately \$106,000 each year for restoration of Kahoolawe through support for the Hawaii Plant Materials Center on Molokai.
- ▶ \$500,000 for the Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool Program, which primarily benefits low-income Native Hawaiian children and their caregivers.
- ▶ \$119,000 for a computer learning center for Kanuikapono Public Charter School in Anahola which primarily serves Native Hawaiian children.
- ▶ \$2 million to remove 8,500 tons of potentially hazardous metallic debris and other wastes at Bellows Air Force Base in Waimanalo that could have been exposed due to shoreline erosion. Waimanalo community members had requested help to clean up the dump for years; Congresswoman Hirono worked with the community to secure funding for the cleanup.

- **Honoring Native Hawaiian History**

Through the efforts of our state's congressional delegation, the contributions of Native Hawaiians to our islands' rich history has garnered increased national awareness in Washington, D.C. The human suffering that occurred in Hawaii's past must never be forgotten.

- ▶ Since the creation of the Capitol Visitor Center, Congress has passed legislation authorizing a ceremony at Emancipation Hall honoring King Kamehameha. During her tenure, Congresswoman Hirono has introduced the authorizing resolution in the House. The ceremonies have been attended by officers of the Royal Societies, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and members of Congress.



A halau performs during the King Kamehameha Day celebration in Emancipation Hall.

- ▶ In 2009, Congress passed Congresswoman Hirono’s Kalaupapa Memorial Act, which authorized a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park in honor of the 8,000 people, the majority of whom were Native Hawaiian, that were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa because of Hansen’s Disease. Congress also passed Congresswoman Hirono’s resolution commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster to sainthood.



- **Making Native Hawaiian Voices Heard**

Even prior to joining the House of Representatives in 2007, Congresswoman Hirono, then Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii, stood in partnership and solidarity with the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities during Census 2000 when, for the first time in the history of the Census, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were counted distinct from Asians.

As Education Task Force Chair of the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Hirono continues to advocate for improving data collection as well as improving disaggregation of that data to educate federal, state, public, and private decision-makers on issues and trends that inform successful policy and program interventions targeting Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with patients and National Park Service representatives in Kalaupapa.

In the fall of 2011, CAPAC met with President Obama to ask that data be collected to address the diverse student population of the Asian American Pacific Islander community. For example, the federal government lumps 73% of



The members of the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus meet with President Obama.

Hawaii’s public school students – whether they’re Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, Samoan, Chinese or Micronesian – as a single Asian/Pacific Islander group. This makes it much harder for educators to address the many unique challenges and needs that may exist. As a result of CAPAC’s advocacy, the U.S. Department of Education in the spring of 2012 released a Request for Information to learn how states, school districts, and institutions of higher education around the country are collecting and using data on Native Hawaiians and other Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with census employees in Hilo.

and Other Pacific Islanders 25 years of age and older had at least a bachelor's degree, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned businesses grew by 30.6 percent.

- **A Strong Advocate in Congress**

A strong, self-sufficient Native Hawaiian community means a stronger, sustainable Hawaii. In the tough and uncertain times we live in, Congresswoman Hirono leads by example as an unrelenting voice and advocate in Congress for the Native Hawaiian community.

These recommendations will be shared across the country so education stakeholders and community leaders can best address the needs of all students.

In social change initiatives, knowledge is power; robust, disaggregated data for these communities represents a crucial step forward to draw proper attention to the diverse characteristics and needs of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islander migrants from the U.S. Associated Pacific Islands, and immigrants native to Pacific Island countries.

In the decade between Census 2000 and Census 2010, results indicate that Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders make up 0.4 percent of the nation's population, totaling 1.2 million people. The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination population grew by 40 percent between the 2000 Census and 2010 Census. Some 14 percent of single-race Native Hawaiians

Working for Quality Health Care

One of Congresswoman Hirono's greatest fears as a child was that her mother – the family's sole breadwinner – would get sick and not be able to go to work. And if she couldn't work, the family would have no money. As a family with no insurance, doctor's visits were often out of reach.

That's why Congresswoman Hirono believes access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of America. Central to this is addressing the needs of the 46 million uninsured Americans, strengthening Medicare, providing health insurance to our low-income children, funding cutting-edge research into cures for diseases, and giving patients the clout to challenge the decisions of health insurers. Only through action on these critical issues can we meet the pressing health care concerns of our nation.

Working for Hawaii

- **Protecting Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act:** When the House of Representatives was debating health care reform, Congresswoman Hirono worked to educate the members of her committee and colleagues about the importance of protecting Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act. She offered an amendment to protect Hawaii's law during consideration of health care reform by the Education and Labor Committee. The Hirono amendment was included in the House's version of the bill. Senators Inouye and Akaka were able to negotiate for a similar measure in the Senate's bill. As a result, working together, Hawaii's Pre-Paid Health Care Act was protected in the final health reform law signed by President Obama.



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes health care reform in a way that reduces the deficit, provides stability and security for Americans who currently have health insurance and provides an affordable, quality option for those without coverage. This law stops insurance companies from denying coverage to children because of a pre-existing condition—including thousands of children in Hawaii. It will stop the insurance companies from saying that being a woman is a pre-existing condition and we can charge you more. It enabled 56,000 seniors in the Second Congressional District to receive Medicare preventative services without any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductions; and provided 10,000 seniors in the district with prescription drug discounts worth \$3.1 million. Now, young people can stay on their parents' insurance until they're 26, an important reform that has provided 2,600 young adults in the Second Congressional District with health insurance.



Congresswoman Hirono meets with medical students at Hilo Medical Center during a forum to discuss the Affordable Care Act and the difficulty of recruiting doctors to serve in our rural communities.

- **Combating Autism:** One in every 110 American children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, making it the nation's fastest-growing, serious developmental disorder. Like Adam, a 4-year-old boy from Kailua. Adam barely spoke as a toddler. Thanks to his mother's and his teacher's persistence, Adam was tested to find why his development was delayed. Diagnosed with a form of autism, Adam began getting the intensive speech and

Federal Commitments for Quality Health Care in Hawaii



Mike Gleason, President & CEO of The Arc of Hilo, discusses The Arc with Congresswoman Hirono.

The Arc of Hilo

For more than five decades, The Arc of Hilo has worked to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through training and employment and residential opportunities on Hawaii Island. Of residents ages 16-64, 18% have a disability and the majority of those are prevented from working due to their disability. Through its program, The Arc is able to reduce incidents of depression, poor health, exclusion, discrimination, poverty, and substance abuse among this vulnerable population.

The Arc today serves more than 200 residents. It has seen a tremendous growth in jobs created for its clients. To keep up with client demand, the staff of The Arc increased from 35 to 125 employees in the past eight years. This growth has meant that the organization outgrew the space it had been located in for more than 25 years.

Congresswoman Hirono was able to help secure federal commitments to help The Arc with its construction of a new space and its client support systems.

Since 2008, Congresswoman Hirono has worked to secure a commitment of \$45.5 million for health initiatives in Hawaii.

behavioral training he needed. Today, he's speaking and playing with his peers. Helping families like Adam's is why Congresswoman Hirono signed on as a cosponsor of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. This bill funds biomedical research while also providing funding for states to develop autism screening, early diagnosis, and intervention programs for children. President Obama signed the bill into law on September 30, 2011.



- **Battling Breast Cancer:** For far too long, breast cancer has inflicted pain and heartbreak on American families. Native Hawaiian and Samoan women have some of the highest rates of breast cancer death of all groups in the United States. To address this issue, Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. This program is designed to increase access to and improve the quality of breast and cervical cancer screening nationwide. In particular, it serves low-income, uninsured or underinsured women by providing services such as mammograms, pap tests, pelvic examinations and diagnostic testing. This bill was signed into law by President Obama, authorizing the program for another five years.

Congresswoman Hirono also cosponsored the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, which was signed into law in October 2008. This bill authorizes the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the cause of breast cancer. She cosponsored legislation to renew a special U.S. Postal Service stamp that invests in breast cancer research. The Breast Cancer Research Stamp has raised more than \$74 million for

research since 1998. Partial proceeds from stamp sales are designated to the National Institutes of Health and the Medical Research Program at the U.S. Department of Defense.

- **Supporting Rural Health Care:** As a member of the House Rural Health Care Coalition, Congresswoman Hirono cosponsored the Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008, which amends the Public Health Service Act to provide additional funding for the health centers program. Currently, 13 health center grantees care for more than 130,000 people and support almost 1,300 jobs in Hawaii. These health centers are especially needed in Congresswoman Hirono's rural district where medically underserved populations are located.
- **Supporting Our Students:** Before passage of the Affordable Care Act, young adults could only be covered by their parents' health insurance if they were full-time students. However, if they became seriously ill, they'd have to make the tough decision to remain in school carrying a full school load while receiving treatment or paying hundreds more each month to stay on their parents' insurance. Congresswoman Hirono saw this as a cruel choice and cosponsored Michelle's Law, which allows students to take one year of medical leave for a serious illness without losing their health insurance. This bill was signed into law by President Obama.

Helping Hawaii's Families

Since 2007, Congresswoman Hirono and her staff have assisted more than 5,000 residents with a range of cases. She was able to help residents receive more than \$350,000 in Social Security and Medicare benefits during the first six months of 2012 alone.

- On Kauai, a Medicare patient in Kapaa required hospital treatment after she fell in her home. Two months later, she was stunned to receive a bill for \$20,000. The hospital miscoded her treatment and Medicare declined to cover all of the procedures. An inquiry from Congresswoman Hirono to Medicare launched the correction process, which led to the woman's charges being paid in full.
- Dr. David Arthurs, a Hawaii Island physician, faced three months of unpaid Medicare claims that cost the practice \$46,000 and put at risk its service of Medicare patients. Congresswoman Hirono reached out to Medicare and the problem was resolved within three weeks.

Mālama ‘Āina

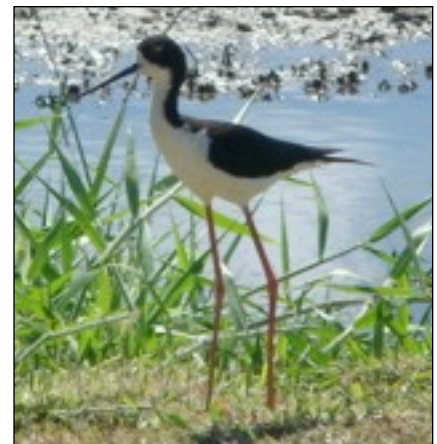
As the representative with one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse districts in the country, Congresswoman Hirono believes we must be responsible stewards of both our islands and the planet. She is committed to preserving coastal areas and open spaces in Hawaii, protecting rare native habitats and the endangered species that depend on them, and ensuring funding for our national parks and wildlife refuges.

Nationally, Congresswoman Hirono has championed:

- ▶ Protecting important wilderness areas, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, old growth forests from logging, and the Grand Canyon National Park from uranium mining.
- ▶ Defending our nation’s landmark environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, among others.
- ▶ Curbing greenhouse gas emissions and preventing the catastrophic consequences of global warming, which will hit the islands especially hard.
- ▶ Moving to non-polluting renewable energy and greater energy efficiency.
- ▶ Protecting our oceans from pollution (marine debris and ocean acidification) and ensuring sustainable use of our ocean resources, with particular attention on protecting coral reefs.
- ▶ Conservation of wildlife species in Hawaii, in the mainland U.S., and internationally.
- ▶ Strengthening regulations related to oil and gas drilling to protect coastal areas and other sensitive habitats.

For Hawaii, Congresswoman Hirono has focused on protecting our precious natural heritage, which we hold in trust for future generations. Fully one-quarter of the species listed under the Endangered Species Act are found in Hawaii—and one-third of the bird species. These are species that exist nowhere else on the planet; in many cases they only exist on one island. This is our responsibility: we can’t leave it to future generations because we would have already lost what is irreplaceable. Among the keys to preserving what we have is protecting habitat (native forests, wetlands, coastal areas, coral reefs), controlling invasive species, and preventing the introduction of new ones. Preserving and restoring our native forests, for instance, has the added value of protecting our groundwater supplies and preventing erosion, which damages our coral reefs and fishing grounds.

To address these issues, Congresswoman Hirono has introduced legislation to look at options for protecting coastal areas of Maui and Hawaii Island and to expand the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge on Hawaii Island. She helped secure funding to restore Kawainui Marsh in Kailua, complete expansion of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu’s North Shore, address invasive species issues, and support national programs that bring money to Hawaii for state and county parks, species conservation work, and research at the University of Hawaii.



Working for Hawaii

Congresswoman Hirono has consistently received the highest ratings from environmental advocacy groups, including Defenders of Wildlife and the League of Conservation Voters, for her voting record. Examples include:

- **Addressing the Causes of Climate Change:**

Congresswoman Hirono was proud to vote for and witness passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which passed the House in June 2009. This was the first time either chamber was able to pass legislation to address curbing emissions of the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming. Unfortunately, the Senate didn't take up the bill.

- **Standing Up for Our Long-Standing**

Environmental Laws: During consideration of the Fiscal Year 2012 Interior and the Environment Appropriations bill in the House, the House Majority included many provisions that undermined 30 years of environmental protections in the law. Congresswoman Hirono voted for an amendment to remove harmful language in the underlying bill that weakened protection of endangered species and against a variety of amendments to cut funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to reduce pollution and increase energy efficiency. Ultimately, the badly flawed bill was pulled from floor consideration. It was described by many environmental groups as the most anti-environmental bill to ever come to the House floor.

- **Fighting Against Polluting Legislation:** Congresswoman Hirono opposed the legislation that would allow companies to sidestep the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act. For example, she opposed H.R. 2021, which would allow oil and gas companies to sidestep critical Clean Air Act protections and avoid commonsense limits on the pollution their offshore drilling operations dump into the air we breathe. The bill passed the House, but fortunately has not advanced in the Senate.

- **Opposing the Attacks on Clean Air:** The TRAIN Act is the single biggest assault on the Clean Air Act in its over 40 year history. This reckless bill guts health-based clean air standards and blocks two of the most significant and long overdue clean air protections that reduce harmful pollution—like mercury, smog, and soot—from power plants, resulting each year in tens of thousands of premature deaths, more than 200,000 asthma attacks, and increased health care costs for families already struggling to make ends meet.



The Hawaiian Rain Forest is the final stamp in the Nature of America series, which focuses on the major plant and animal communities in the United States.

- **Supporting Protection of Wilderness and Wildlife:** Congresswoman Hirono has been a consistent champion of legislation to protect important and unique natural areas and wildlife. Examples of key legislation she has cosponsored includes:
 - ▶ H.R. 139, Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.
 - ▶ H.R. 1916, America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, which would preserve federal land of the red rock canyons in Utah as wilderness.
 - ▶ H.R. 3465, National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act, which would protect old growth forests in the National Forest System.
 - ▶ H.R. 1456, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Reauthorization Act.
 - ▶ H.R. 1761, Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act.
 - ▶ H.R. 2111, Salmon Solutions and Planning Act.

In addition, Congresswoman Hirono has advocated for funding each year for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, the National Park Service, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the National Wildlife Refuge System. She is a member of the Congressional National Parks Caucus and the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus.

Federal Commitments for Hawaii’s Environment

Congresswoman Hirono has been a dedicated advocate for restoring our natural resources and protecting Hawaii’s native species. Her efforts have helped species and areas on almost every island, ranging from Kawainui Marsh on Oahu to Kaunakakai Stream on Molokai, where a project is working to restore the habitat of the endangered Hawaiian stilt.

Since 2008, she has worked to secure commitments of more than \$45.7 million for environmental restoration and projects, including more than \$36.4 million for restoration and research projects and nearly \$5.3 million to protect Hawaii from invasive species.

- **Kawainui Marsh Environmental Restoration**
On the edge of Kailua, Oahu, lies Kawainui Marsh, the largest remaining wetland in Hawaii. For years, the Kailua community and environmental advocates have been working toward the restoration of Kawainui. The marsh has been recognized as the primary habitat of several endangered native birds, including the Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian moorhen, Hawaiian duck, and the Hawaiian coot, and more than 60 other birds, fish and aquatic animals. It is also a place of great cultural significance with numerous nearby heiau (religious temples).

Congresswoman Hirono was able to help secure \$4 million toward completing the Kawainui Marsh Environmental Restoration Project. In July 2011, the Hawaii Department of



Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a formal project partnership agreement for the Kawainui Marsh Environmental Restoration Project. The project intends to increase the populations of our endangered birds, reduce runoff, and remove invasive plants from the marsh. They will construct 11 terraced shallow ponds, a water supply system to the ponds and an earthen berm system. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in June 2012.

- **James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge**

The James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's north shore is the home of the four Hawaiian waterbirds, the pueo or Hawaiian owl, and a variety of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. In May 2006, President Bush signed legislation to increase the total acreage of the refuge from 342 acres to 1,100 acres.



Congresswoman Hirono helped secure additional funding to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Land Acquisition's budget to complete the authorized land acquisitions. The Refuge is the largest natural coastal wetland and the last remaining natural coastal dune ecosystem on Oahu. With this purchase, the endangered native birds have a protected home.

- **Mokuhinia/Mokuula Ecosystem Restoration, Maui, Hawaii**

Mokuhinia was originally a 17-acre pond along the West Maui shoreline and Mokuula was an inland island. In Hawaiian traditions, the pond is recognized as the home of the lizard goddess Kihawahine, the deity of the Maui royal family. Mokuula was even used as the royal residence of a member of the Maui royal family in the 1800s. Years later, in the early 20th century, Mokuhinia was filled to create a public park.

While projects exist to undertake archaeological work and facilities to share the cultural heritage of the area, Congresswoman Hirono has worked to provide funding to look at the feasibility of the restoration of the Mokuhinia/Mokuula ecosystem. The project involves the development of wetlands that would provide habitat for endangered and native waterfowl species at a site that remains historically significant as the prior home of Hawaii's royalty and alii.

- **Brown Tree Snake Control on Guam**

Hawaii has been called the "endangered species capital of the world," with more than 300 endangered native species and is the home of almost 25 percent of our nation's threatened and endangered species. In particular, our islands have a large number of endangered birds that exist nowhere else on earth. According to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, "this snake represents one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's native species."

The brown tree snake has almost eliminated Guam's native birds and the danger that it could do the same on Hawaii is very real. A major troop build-up is expected to occur in Guam to offset a reduction of troops in Okinawa. Moving supplies and personnel will increase flight operations in the Pacific Region and could increase the risk of brown tree snakes being introduced to Hawaii. It is critical that this not occur so Congresswoman Hirono has secured more than \$1.3 million throughout her tenure in Congress to control the brown tree snake population.

- **Hawaii Plant Materials Center, Molokai and Kahoolawe**

The island of Kahoolawe was dedicated to Kanaloa, the Hawaiian deity of the ocean, and was called Kohemalamalama O Kanaloa. It was a sacred site to the Native Hawaiians. But, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, with martial law imposed on the islands, Kahoolawe became a bombing range for the military. This continued until 1990, when President George H.W. Bush ordered the bombing to stop.

Kahoolawe was devastated by the bombings and part of the United States' kuleana is to help return this remote island to a habitable condition. The Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was given the task to restore the eroded landscape.

Congresswoman Hirono helped secure funding for the Hawaii Plant Materials Center to assist in this effort. The Center produced seeds that would survive in the dry climate and which were then reintroduced to Kahoolawe by KIRC staff. These dry land plants included pili grass, kawelu grass, aweoweo, and uhaloa. The Center also provided pili grass bales to help control erosion and help other native plants to grow as well.

- **Protected Species Habitat Restoration at Kure Atoll**

Kure Atoll is the most northwestern island in the Hawaiian chain, more than 1,000 miles from Oahu and the most northern atoll in the world. The atoll and its surrounding waters support 155 species of reef fishes, 56 percent of which are only found in the Hawaiian archipelago. The atoll is also an important albatross breeding habitat and the lagoon supports a population of spinner dolphins.

To help restore the habitat to its natural condition, Congresswoman Hirono secured a federal commitment of \$25,000. This will help to fund the removal of invasive species, replanting the area with native plants, and removing marine debris.

