



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

April 20, 2021

Congressman Ed Case
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

We are writing in strong support of the Blood Bank of Hawaii's Community Funding Project request.

As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is a statewide, non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as the advocate for business in Hawaii. The Chamber works on behalf of its 2,000+ member organizations to advance the state's economic climate and help the business community to thrive locally, nationally, and globally.

Our members and all their employees, along with the citizens of this state, depend on the Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) for lifesaving blood and blood products. They know how important BBH is to Hawaii, as the only provider of blood in the state. Our members support BBH by hosting and supporting their own blood drives. Pre-COVID, these drives supplied about 70 percent of our state's blood supply. Post-COVID these businesses are still supporting our state's blood needs by sending their employees to BBH's donation centers.

As an island state, we must have a blood supply that is readily available when needed. The closest U.S. city to us is over 2,400 miles from Hawaii. In the event of a natural disaster or catastrophe, it would take hours and maybe even days for Hawaii to secure blood from the U.S. mainland. Those hours could cost hundreds of lives.

BBH's proposed new facility will ensure that each of our medical centers across our islands are readily able to access blood and blood products for lifesaving procedures. Their project will serve to play a critical and essential role in Hawaii's healthcare infrastructure and is critical to the health and safety of all Hawaii residents, as well as visitors to our islands.

Thank you for your consideration of their request for support of their new facility.

Sincerely,

Sherry Menor-McNamara
President & CEO