

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



April 23, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case
United States House of Representatives
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

As the Mayor of Kaua'i County representing over 72,000 residents, I am writing in strong support of the Blood Bank of Hawai'i's Community Funding Project request.

The blood products needed to perform lifesaving procedures at our two hospitals on Kaua'i are available from only one source in Hawai'i – Blood Bank of Hawai'i.

Blood is a perishable product. Some blood components require processing within eight (8) hours of collection, and some blood components, e.g., platelets, have a short shelf- life. Platelets have a maximum shelf-life of five (5) days and become less effective as they age even when stored at the required temperature of 20 to 24C (with constant rotation). By the time required test results are returned to the center and platelets are released, the platelets often expire within two days. There is no substitute drug for a bleeding patient that has a low platelet count and BBH operates seven days a week to meet this critical need. An interruption of even one day could have a profoundly serious negative impact on patients needing platelets.

Due to our distance from the mainland U.S., importing blood from other states is not an option for Kaua'i. Blood Bank of Hawai'i's proposed new facility will ensure that it can continue to be an integral healthcare partner with Kaua'i Veteran's Memorial Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

The residents and visitors to Kaua'i depend on the Blood Bank of Hawai'i each and every day to provide blood and blood products for lifesaving treatments. I appreciate your consideration of their request in support of their new facility.

Sincerely,

Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i