



April 15, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case  
United States House of Representatives (HI-01)

1003 Bishop Street  
Suite 1110  
Honolulu, HI 96813

2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of support for KKV and their capital project, Hale Lauele

Dear Congressman Case:

On behalf of AlohaCare, I am writing in full support of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV) funding request to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This award for funding will be critical to construct Hale Lauele, a new health facility for 'āina-based healing and native health and well-being at the 100-acre nature preserve, Ho'oulu 'Āina, on the island of O'ahu.

AlohaCare knows the vital role KKV fulfills for comprehensive community health in Hawai'i. COVID-19 has every organization and leader in the health industry reimagining the future of our work across mission-driven innovative care delivery models. KKV continues to provide exceptional, forward-thinking solutions beyond the pandemic. Their facility will add integral new space to perpetuate ancestral knowledge of healing and caring for the land. Together, both AlohaCare and KKV believe in the power of community, whole person health, and all of us working together to improve the health of the patients and members we serve. However, physical centers for Indigenous health are severely under-resourced while the need and demand grows in Hawai'i and throughout the U.S.

Like the terms *kōkua* and *ho'oulu* describe in Hawaiian language, each and every one of us have the capacity to assist the growth of wellness and increase a healthier Hawai'i. When I think of Hale Lauele, I envision thousands of program participants who will experience greater well-being through health education, professional development opportunities, and neighbors being neighborly. That future will become reality when Hale Lauele—a 7,500 square foot center for Native Hawaiian land-based healing, health services and training of health professionals—is completed. With this funding, KKV will surely deepen opportunities for the community to connect to land and uplift the vitality of people long impacted by the negative health effects of colonization. Namely, low income Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders.

KKV takes a holistic approach to providing primary care services that supports the needs of patients who are among the most in need. In collaboration with KKV at Hale Lauele, AlohaCare will be pleased to provide our members with greater programs, services, and activities that address the social determinants of health and the root causes of significant health disparities we see among our population. Together, our organizations can create innovative, long-term, sustainable change to the way we work. Therefore, I offer this letter of support with greatest confidence that integration of Indigenous practices such as *lā'au lapa'au*, *ho'oponopono*, and *lomilomi* are meaningful and beneficial to our members who receive their comprehensive care at KKV.

I thank KKV for their dedication and commitment to improve the health status and well-being of under-resourced communities by advocating for culturally appropriate strategic actions in health care. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written support to KKV and describe the significance I see in our ongoing partnership. I humbly ask that you share in this enthusiasm and invest in Hale Lauele.

Sincerely,

  
françoise.culley-trotman (Apr 26, 2021 08:39 HST)

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