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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 2021

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEES: NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

Aloha, Friend.

On January 3rd I was sworn into the two-year 117th Congress, again representing you and some 750,000 fellow citizens throughout our Hawaii's great First Congressional District (Honolulu from Makapu'u to Mililani and Ko 'Olina).

My mission in the U.S. House of Representatives remains to solve problems and deliver solutions for all Americans. My focus is on (1) forging the best path forward for our country, (2) assuring full federal assistance for

our Hawai'i, and (3) helping you and yours wherever and however I can.

COVID-19 continues as my most urgent priority. On my House Appropriations Committee and otherwise, I remain especially directed at ensuring federal support for our country and Hawai'i. The some \$15 billion we have steered to Hawai'i thus far has been essential, but still more is on the way and needed to see us all through.

I also remain focused on many other priorities. I highlight a few in this report, and invite you to case.house.gov for much more.

With COVID-19, your own questions and needs have never been greater. My office and I are committed to assisting you, and I provide more information in this report.

Finally, I have never felt a greater need to stay connected with you, to report back to you, listen to your concerns and answer your questions. Please join my next Tele-Talk Story with Congressman Ed Case on Monday, April 12th; details right here.

I understand fully the great responsibility of serving as your representative for our Hawai'i on Capitol Hill during a deeply challenging time. Please contact me anytime with your questions, suggestions or needs.

With aloha,

Ed Case Congressman Ed Case – Hawai'i-First District

Tele Congressman Ed Case

April 12, 2021 at 6:30pm Hawaiʻi Time

I am hosting another Live Tele-Talk Story Community Meeting to update you on Congress' and my actions, listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

To join, just stay on the line when you receive my call from ph. 808-650-6688 right before our Talk Story, or, if you don't hear from me, call in at 855-274-9528.

You can also join online at https://case. house.gov/live/

We Are Here To Help You

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Advancing Our Country, Assisting

COVID-19

Our just-enacted \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan is our third major federal emergency assistance package, after our \$2.2 trillion CARES Act last March and \$900 billion supplemental last December. Together, they are delivering essential aid to critical needs including vaccinations and public health, small businesses, workers, families, communities, non-profits, schools and governments. My efforts have focused on first passing these literally life-and-death measures, then closely tracking and guiding this assistance through our government maze to where actually needed back home. Our only path through COVID-19 is scientific public health direction including widespread vaccinating. But severe needs will continue, and I am focused on further targeted assistance.



At 'Ewa food distribution.

FEDERAL FINANCES

Even before COVID-19 our federal finances were deteriorating rapidly, risking not just bedrock programs like Social Security and Medicare but federal efforts across-the-board as well as our overall economy. Most agree that COVID-19 has demanded massive federal support. But, as virtually all of that assistance is borrowed, our federal finances are in far worse shape than a year ago, with our non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projecting that we face the highest levels of government debt to our overall economy ever. I reject the view that federal deficits and debt no longer matter, that we can continue to spend far more than our revenues, endlessly increasing our overall debt, without any consequence. We must move past whether this is a crisis to exactly how to address it. With colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both the House and Senate, I have introduced measures such as our Sustainable Budget Act to require that we face and make these difficult decisions.



Saying mahalo at our Capitol to our Hawai'i National Guard for protecting Inauguration

FOR THE PEOPLE

The root cause of our widespread disapproval of government is that we feel excluded, that government is not truly representative or responsive, that it is rigged against the many for the benefit of the few. To return our government to the people, last Congress and again in this one I co-introduced and the House passed H.R. 1, our For the People Act. This truly revolutionary bill would implement critical government reform efforts, such as fighting voter suppression, simplifying voting, promoting election security, curbing special interest and dark money in politics, incentivizing smaller and broader donations, increasing transparency and fortifying ethics laws. These are reforms that all Americans should support as our very democracy is at stake.

HAWAI'I AND THE INDO-PACIFIC

Our Hawai'i is at the center of this truly Pacific Century, not only because of our location but also our unique culture. It is both natural that we should lead our country's efforts throughout Asia and the Pacific, but also good for our own economy and jobs. I am focused on supporting our leadership wherever and however I can, from our armed services and international programs to education, business and beyond.

As one example, I am continuing our Congressional Pacific



Islands Caucus, which I co-founded last Congress with like-minded colleagues on both sides of the aisle to focus

Our Hawai'i, Helping You and Yours

on expanding and deepening our country's ties with our 'ohana throughout the Pacific. We are working to to pass our Boosting Long-term U.S. Engagement in the Pacific (BLUE Pacific) Act, the most significant Pacific-focused initiative in generations.



First meeting of my Appropriations Committee

APPROPRIATIONS

I am continuing my service on the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, the oldest committee in Congress, which is responsible for virtually all annual discretionary federal funding. This coveted committee reaches all parts of our federal government, and allows me not only to direct federal spending for Hawai'i, but to influence key federal programs critical to our economy and communities like travel and tourism, our military, construction, agriculture, health, education and housing. It is also key for coordination on Hawai'i efforts with my colleagues, Sen. Schatz (who serves on Senate Appropriations), Sen. Hirono, and our newest partner, Rep. Kahele.

EQUALITY

Even in these difficult times of deep challenge and division, we can take pride in our country's success and promise and commit to finding the best path forward together. But we cannot do so while turning away from persistent, tragic and too often growing inequality and injustice throughout our society. Systemic discrimination, especially in our most trusted institutions, must be confronted, and our George Floyd Justice in Policing Act seeks to reform what must be reformed in one. Another, perhaps the longest, most persistent and most pervasive of discriminations, is against women. I again co-introduced legislation to provide for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and embed in our Constitution the equal rights of women.

NATURAL RESOURCES

I am also returning to the House Natural Resources Committee, with jurisdiction over our nation's public lands, oceans and wildlife, as well as our indigenous peoples including Native Hawaiians. There I am continuing my efforts to preserve and protect our precious resources as well as to confront and act on the reality of climate change. My special focus is our world's oceans. Through my service on that committee's Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, I'm working to strengthen protections of our endangered marine resources from coral to fish and other marine life.



Answering questions during my last Tele-Talk Story from my Honolulu office

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

My office is dedicated to assisting you and yours wherever and however we can. While we will try to answer any question, we can especially help with federal programs and benefits, such as immigration, veterans and Social Security benefits, Medicare and specific COVID-19 programs like the direct stimulus payments. For more information on how we can help, please go to case.house.gov or just contact us.

Ed Case Reports nsmessengnoð .2.U

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