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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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LANDS  
WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 10300  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to request your immediate action to address a critical issue facing thousands of my constituents: the announced imminent closure of the Mānoa Post Office Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in Honolulu.

The Mānoa Post Office CPU has served the 24,000 residents of Mānoa Valley for decades. It provides essential community access to postal service, PO Boxes and other postal products, which have become more crucial for our small businesses and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the days leading up to the Labor Day weekend, PO Box customers of the Mānoa Post Office CPU began receiving letters, dated August 31, 2021, informing them that the Mānoa Post Office CPU would close on September 30, 2021. These letters provided no context as to why the CPU may be closing so abruptly and no explanation of how the United States Postal Service (USPS) would continue to provide services to the Mānoa community.

After my office reached out to USPS officials, it became clear that the USPS contracting office precipitated the sudden closure of this community foundation. It denied the Mānoa Post Office CPU operator's request to account for increased costs including but not limited to the landlord's proposal to raise lease rents on the operator. I understand that as a result the operator concluded it could not continue with a financially viable operation.

Because of Hawaii's unique circumstances including very high land prices and costs of goods and services, many federal cost-benefit analysis formulas are not appropriate for Hawai'i. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have requested various

studies from the General Services Administration to ensure that its leasing equations account for these higher costs. I believe this same issue applies to the USPS in Hawai‘i generally and specifically to USPS formulas to determine CPU contract pricing, and further that the failure to account for Hawai‘i costs results in insufficient CPU and postal coverage as would be the result in Mānoa.

By September 30, 2021, I request that the USPS fully reevaluate and explain its decision to deny the operator’s request for revised contract terms to reflect higher rent and other costs. As part of that explanation, I also ask the USPS to provide its general formula for contracting decisions, including adjustments for high-cost locations such as Hawai‘i.

Furthermore, I ask that, pending that reevaluation and information, the USPS take every step possible to continue operation of the Mānoa Post Office CPU past September 30th, This could include an interim increase in the contract pricing or an interim operator if the current operator is unwilling to continue.

I look forward to your prompt response. Please let me know of any questions.

Sincerely,



Ed Case  
Member of Congress

CC: Senator Brian Taniguchi, *Hawai‘i State Senate, District 11*  
Representative Dale Kobayashi, *Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, District 23*  
Councilmember Calvin Say, *Honolulu City Council, District 5*  
Chair Dylan Armstrong, *Mānoa Neighborhood Board*  
Chris Benjamin, *President & Chief Executive Officer, Alexander & Baldwin*  
*Mānoa Post Office CPU Operator*