

January 2023

# Aloha!

### Dear Friend,

Let me first offer my best wishes for success to the members of our Neighborhood Boards as we enter the New Year, along with my promise to continue to work together with you to address the many needs and concerns of our shared constituencies.

My mission as your U.S. Congressman remains to: (1) contribute to national leadership for our country and world; (2) assure that Hawaii's needs are addressed by our federal government; and (3) assist you with your individual concerns. Here is my first Board report to you of 2023 including a quick look back at 2022 and forward to 2023.

#### 2022

Last year brought several successes, as I continued to use my positions and relationships in Congress, especially on the House Appropriations Committee, to focus on the needs of Hawai'i and the Pacific. This included billions for our state, especially through the Fiscal Year 2023 federal funding bill that delivered another \$1 billion to address the Red Hill water contamination crisis, to build on the \$1.2 billion that our Hawai'i Congressional delegation secured for Hawai'i in 2022. I was also able to

win approval of another \$94 million-plus for local community projects, including \$38 million to upgrade the Army Medical Center's failing water system, \$270,000 for the YMCA of Honolulu to support wellness and mental health services for children and youth, and \$4.8 million to develop a 30-mile active transit corridor connecting East to West Oʻahu.

You can find more on these projects as well as other funding provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 \$1.7 trillion federal omnibus measure here.

Other major accomplishments for the year included:

- Safer Communities Act: in the wake of heartbreaking gun violence, Congress achieved landmark legislation to build a safer future for our children. This new gun violence prevention law deploys stronger tools to help keep guns out of dangerous hands, including by finally closing the boyfriend loophole and investing in needed mental health services.
- Honoring our PACT Act: Congress delivered on our duty to honor our promises to our veterans and their 'ohana. The new law ensures that up to 3.5 million veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals while protecting our nation can access the health care services they need.
- CHIPS and Science Act: This law will power American
  preeminence in science, innovation and manufacturing and
  strengthen our national security for decades to come. Gamechanging investments include: bolstering America's semiconductor
  industry; reinvigorating our research and development; and
  recruiting a diverse, inclusive STEM workforce from all across the
  country.
- Inflation Reduction Act: Among other major provisions, this
  transformative law will slash prescription drug costs, lower health
  care premiums, deliver the most consequential climate action in
  history and reduce the federal deficit, all of which will further benefit
  our Hawai'i.
- Respect for Marriage Act: This landmark legislation will keep marriage equality the law of the land.

I am also happy to share two other achievements focusing on my work as a member of the Natural Resources Committee, one to evaluate whether Ka'ena Point on O'ahu should be Hawaii's first National Heritage Area (see more <u>here</u>, and the other similarly to advance Hawaii's first-ever National Forest designation (more on that <u>here</u>).

#### 2023

As I now begin our country's 118<sup>th</sup> two-year Congress, my priorities include continuations of critical issues from the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, such as ensuring the prompt and safe closure of Red Hill, providing relief to oppressive inflation and the cost of living, confronting China and working with partners throughout the Indo-Pacific, improving public safety, protecting our oceans, addressing the very real threats of climate change, and helping constituents with their federal benefits and whatever else concerns them and much more, as well as issues that are only now just emerging. Regardless, I will continue to dedicate my experience, seniority, relationships and efforts to solving our real-world challenges.

In all this, I'm very pleased to work with Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, who joins our Hawai'i Congressional delegation in serving the home we all love. Congresswoman Tokuda is well prepared to undertake these obligations and will be a great partner.

We in Congress must remain connected to our partners at the state, local and community levels including you as members of your Neighborhood Board. I invite you to my website at <a href="http://case.house.gov">http://case.house.gov</a> for more information, offer my assistance with your questions and needs and ask for your continued input. I will also continue my regular open talk story community meetings, hopefully in person again soon, as well as my staff's and, when I can, my own, attendance at your meetings.

As always, please reach out to Jackie Conant and Nestor Garcia in my Honolulu district office with any questions or needs. Our number is (808) 650-6688.



P.S. Please sign up for my regular e-newsletter <u>here</u>.

## **Contact Me**

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