

2025 First Quarter Neighborhood Board Report



Aloha Friend,

On January 3rd, at the commencement of the two-year 119th Congress (2025-2027), I took the oath of office to serve Hawai'i in the U.S. House of Representatives for the seventh time.

I truly welcome the opportunity to continue to partner with the members of the 24 Neighborhood Boards throughout my Congressional District. I extend my best wishes to you on the New Year and look forward to working with you further as we address the concerns of our shared constituencies.

It has always been my priority to keep in touch with you in numerous ways, including these quarterly reports, as well as my in-person, districtwide Talk Story community meetings, six more of which I'm doing in late January/ early February. For my Talk Story schedule, and to review a summary of my activities last year, please go to my 2024 End of the Year Report <u>here</u>.

Here are a few highlights of my current activities:

My Continued Work On The House Appropriations Committee

I will be continuing for a seventh and eighth year my service on the House Committee on Appropriations, responsible for overseeing and funding all parts of our federal government. I will continue my work on two key subcommittees, which together oversee over half of all federal spending.

Defense has the most expansive worldwide portfolio of any of Appropriations' twelve subcommittees, with responsibility for not only our armed services but our intelligence community.

My other assignment is with Homeland Security, also with one of the largest budgets of our twelve subcommittees. Homeland Security touches all of our lives in many ways, ranging from counterterrorism and cybersecurity to aviation security, border security, port security, maritime security, administration and enforcement of immigration and customs laws, protection of national leaders, protection of critical infrastructure, protection against chemical, biological and nuclear threats to the homeland, as well as responses to disasters (FEMA). We also oversee and fund the U.S. Coast Guard, an increasingly critical part of our Indo-Pacific world.

What's On the Mind Of Our Constituents

I periodically reach out to my over 700,000 constituents to hear directly from them on the concerns facing our state, country and the world. Amidst ongoing division and polarization, we Americans can agree on one thing: we just want our government to solve our problems. I deeply appreciate the many responses I received from my most recent survey in December, especially as they help guide my work on your behalf in Congress. The responses could also help you and the communities you represent to deal with issues that are in the jurisdiction of the federal government. Check out my latest survey results <u>here</u>.

<u>Honoring The Hui Panalā'au</u>

On January 6th, I commended President Biden's first-ever proclamation formally honoring the Hui Panalā'au and renaming the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument as the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument.

In his <u>Proclamation</u>, President Biden formally recognized and extended the nation's appreciation for the service of some 135 mainly Native Hawaiian men, many students or graduates of the then-Kamehameha Schools for Boys, who between 1935 to 1942 were sent by the U.S. government to live and work on the remote uninhabited equatorial Pacific islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Enderbury and Canton near the equator.

Although the men undertook various scientific and educational activities on the islands, the main purpose of the mission was to perfect U.S. claims to the islands as World War II closed in on the Pacific. Of the group, several became ill and three died on the islands including in an attack by Japan the day after Pearl Harbor. For more on this Presidential recognition, please go to my press release <u>here</u>.

Winners Of My Congressional App Challenge

I always enjoy my times at home and talking story with my constituents, especially young students. At a reception in December at the Entrepreneurs Sandbox in Kaka'ako, I had the pleasure of announcing the winners of my 2024 Congressional App Challenge for my First Congressional District. The Challenge is a great opportunity for our local students to focus their skills and creativity on developing, testing and analyzing new applications for real-world use.

The winners:

1st Place – Tahan Bapna, Josh Zhang, Connor McCown and Kai Stewart of Punahou High School All 4 are in the 10th grade App: "Isolated Isles" Link to video: <u>here</u>

2nd Place – Jinghao Li of Island Pacific Academy 11th grade App: "CounselAI" Link to video: <u>here</u>

3rd Place – Tyler Kagawa (Mid-Pacific Institute, 12th grade), Lilinoe Daniel-Barnes (Kealakehe High School in Kailua-Kona, 11th grade), Ellie Grace Piianaia (Punahou High School, 12th grade), Kaua Fatu (Kea`au High School in Pahoa, 11th grade) App: "`Ae Hawai`i" Link to video; here.

My Nominations To Our Nation's Service Academies

Also in December, I announced my nominations to our nation's four service academies for the incoming class of 2025: the U.S. Military Academy (West Point/Army); U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis/Navy); U.S. Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs/Air Force) and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point).

I take my responsibility to nominate deserving applicants from my district to our legendary service academies very seriously, and personally interviewed most of my applicants before making my decisions. I was truly impressed with the applicants, and it was very encouraging and rewarding to have spent time with our next generation of military leaders. For a complete listing of my nominations, please go to my press release <u>here</u>

As always, I deeply appreciate your consideration and assistance as we all work to find the best way forward for our country and Hawai'i.

For more information on my efforts, and how we can help you, please visit my website at <u>case.house.gov</u>. If I can help you and yours with your own questions and needs, email us at <u>ed.case@mail.house.gov</u>, or call us at (808) 650-6688.

Mahalo nui loa, Ed Case

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