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September 8, 2020

Congressman Ed Case's Statement in Support of Honolulu City Council Resolution 20-219

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Resolution 20-219, which urges the U.S. Senate to pass H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act.

I cosponsored and voted for the bipartisan Delivering for America Act, which passed the U.S. House on August 22nd, because the Administration's various actions to date, though explained as necessary to "improve" the United States Postal Service (USPS), can in fact only be viewed a direct and coordinated attack on the USPS.

The USPS needs our full support. The USPS is a creature not of statute but of our Constitution because our founders recognized it as critical to a functioning government, democracy, economy and society. The USPS is not a business; it is a service that we all contribute to as a core function of government.

The COVID-19 crisis has only magnified the importance of the USPS. Now more than ever, the USPS is essential to continuing to address so many goals and needs, from business (especially small businesses) to health care (especially prescription drugs), Social Security, disability, veterans, unemployment and other benefits and assistance, tax returns and refunds and more.

But nowhere this year is the USPS more essential than to ensure a full, free and fair general election. In a time of required social distancing when in-person voting is not a safe option for whole segments of our country, vote-by-mail is the only practical option to ensure the widest possible access to the ballot box for all voting Americans.

The Administration's antipathy to the USPS predated COVID-19, but the current crisis has only heightened a series of highly questionable decisions taken under the guise of responding to COVID-19 which taken together are far more than attempts to improve the USPS. To avoid any claim or excuse by anyone that the \$25 billion of emergency funding the House is seeking to provide is entangled in the ongoing larger negotiations over the next COVID-19 emergency assistance package, the U.S. House passed the Delivering for America Act, focused exclusively on implementing the Board of Governors' recommendations on assuring the continued viability and full functioning of the USPS through the 2020 general elections and beyond.

Our bill aims to block any change that would delay mail or increase the volume of undelivered mail. Any refusal by the Senate majority to pass this bill or further opposition from the Administration can only then mean opposition to the critical functioning of the USPS not only for so many in need but to the right of all eligible Americans to vote.

I commend the Honolulu City Council for preparing this resolution in support of the USPS's critical mission, its over 2,300 employees and 108 facilities statewide to help the Senate and the Administration understand why we in Hawai'i agree that the USPS more needed than ever.