

2026 Veterans Report

from U.S. Representative Ed Case

Advancing The Interests
Of Hawaii's 109,000
Veterans And 'Ohana



ED CASE
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

2210 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-2726

1003 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1100
HONOLULU, HI 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-650-6688
FAX: 808-533-0133

WEBSITE: [CASE.HOUSE.GOV](https://case.house.gov)

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

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
DEFENSE
HOMELAND SECURITY

Aloha!

It is my duty and honor to represent our Hawaii's close to 109,000 veterans and your families in Congress. That requires me to stay in touch with you and your thoughts and concerns wherever and however I can. In that spirit, here is another of my reports back to you to update you on my Congressional efforts for our veterans, to offer my continued assistance, and to seek your ongoing guidance.

Memorial Day 2026. As I do so, I join you in remembering and honoring our fallen as we approach Memorial Day 2026. We cannot, must not and will not forget your gift. And the best way for us as Americans is to recommit today to cherishing, protecting and advancing the country and freedom for which you gave everything.

Funding Veterans Programs. Our promise to our veterans includes many commitments in many areas including veterans' health, education, housing, business and more. Virtually all of these require sufficient and consistent federal funding, which is directed through Congress' Appropriations Committees.

I'm in my eighth year of service on our U.S. House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for federal discretionary funding, currently some \$1.6 trillion annually. I served my first four years on our Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, which oversees and funds our federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the primary administrator of veterans benefits. For the last four years I've served on our Subcommittee on Defense, responsible for our nation's armed services and intelligence community, with much overlap with veterans affairs.

Appropriations is my major focus in delivering sufficient funding and oversight of federal programs devoted to our veterans. For current Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, we appropriated some \$115.1 billion for veterans medical care and \$263.7 billion for mandatory veterans benefits, including disability compensation, education benefits and employment training. We are in the midst of our deliberations on appropriations for veterans programs for FY 2027, which begins October 1st of this year. In this work and my other efforts, I continue to rely on the guidance of our Hawaii's veterans community and welcome your suggestions on improving and funding our key Hawaii's veterans programs at ed.case@mail.house.gov.



Rep. Case listens to a veteran's concerns at his Veterans Talk Story

toxic substances (burn pits, Agent Orange, etc.) We continue to assist Hawaii's veterans with questions about this law, which I fully supported. Here's more on the PACT Act: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>.

Strengthening Veterans Healthcare. Assisting our veterans with quality healthcare, especially related to your service, is one of our most basic commitments. We significantly expanded healthcare coverage with passage in 2022 of the PACT Act, extending VA healthcare and benefits to now some 350,000 veterans exposed to

There are many areas in which our VA healthcare system must still be improved, ranging from nationwide needs like common electronic medical records to more specific needs. Here are just a few of the bills I have proposed; I welcome your own comments:

• H.R. 3610, the Parity for Native Hawaiian Veterans Act, which would enable our Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (like our Native Hawaiian-focused community health centers) to seek direct reimbursement from the VA.

• H.R. 4841, the Stomach Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Act, which would provide actionable recommendations to improve prevention, screening and early detection for stomach cancer, which disproportionately impacts veterans.

• H.R. 220, the Veterans Infertility Treatment Act, which would expand VA-covered infertility services, including IVF, for veterans and their partners.

Addressing the Unacceptable High Cost of Living. The high cost of living hits our nation's veterans particularly hard, especially those many who must provide for necessities like housing, food and transportation on fixed incomes. This is clearly not acceptable.

To help veterans with rising costs, I voted for the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025, which became law. It raised VA benefit rates to match inflation. Specifically, the bill increased compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities along with dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain veterans.

Through my Appropriations Committee, I have also secured increased funding for some of the underlying costs that our veterans face. For example, our FY 2026 funding bill includes \$3.5 billion for the Caregivers Program and \$75 million for the VA loan programs that help some veterans secure housing.



Rep. Case discusses veterans issues on Veterans Day

I have also cosponsored a wide range of bills to address specific drivers of the high cost of living for our veterans, such as:

• H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act, which would eliminate the "offset" requiring retirees to reduce retired pay by the amount of disability compensation received.

• H.R. 585, the Supporting Veteran Families in Need Act, a bipartisan bill aimed at making a VA authority permanent that provides supportive services to very low-income veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing

• H.R. 6358, the Veteran Education Empowerment Act, which would authorize funding for Student Veteran Success Centers at colleges and universities nationwide, helping student veterans transition from military to academic life.

This last proposal is a good example of how invaluable it is to my work to stay in touch with you. I recently joined my colleague, U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda, at the University of Hawaii's West O'ahu for an event which included hearing from our veteran students. One of the students was a retired infantryman who spoke movingly and personally about the challenges of transition and asked us to support this measure, which we both did.

Advancing Another National Cemetery In Hawaii's. Our veterans especially know and appreciate the treasure of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as the final resting place among comrades of thousands of veterans and families (including my grandfather and uncle). But the reality is that we are quickly running out of space at Punchbowl, which has been essentially closed to casketed burials since 1991 and will stop accepting cremated remains by 2036.

To maintain equitable access to burial benefits in a national cemetery for veterans residing in Hawaii's, where the next closest national cemetery is over 2,500 miles away, our nation must start toward a new cemetery now, as the process involves many phases which could easily take upwards of a decade to complete. I therefore joined my Hawaii's Congressional delegation colleagues in introducing our Hawaii's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 6921) to advance this effort.

Assisting You and Yours With Your Individual Needs. My job includes assisting you and yours with your own individual needs. Since my return to Congress in 2019, my office has assisted some ten thousand constituents on individual matters, including many veterans and 'ohana, especially on health, housing and other benefits and service record-related issues. If you or a fellow veteran or anyone else you know needs help, please visit my website at <https://case.house.gov/forms/casework> or call my Honolulu office at (808) 650-6688.

Asking for Your Continued Guidance. Again, my efforts in Congress for you and your fellow veterans and 'ohana depend on my staying closely connected with you and your organizations, and I need and ask for your kōkua in keeping our connection strong. You can especially help by sharing this newsletter and my offer of assistance with your fellow veterans (you can forward an electronic copy from <https://case.house.gov/newsletters/>).

Please go to <https://case.house.gov> for further information on my efforts and sign up for regular updates through my e-newsletter and social media at <https://case.house.gov/contact>. We truly welcome your questions and comments on any matter.

For our country and all who I am honored to represent, I again express my deepest appreciation for your service.

Mahalo,

Ed Case

U.S. Representative Ed Case
Hawaii's First District

Scan this code to go to my website >
case.house.gov



Rep. Case says mahalo to a veteran on Veterans Day



A veteran responds to Rep. Case on individual constituent services

“

Aloha Congressman Case and Mr. Garcia,
I would like to send you both a heartfelt MAHALO for helping me acquire my military medical records!

You were able to do in a week what I have been trying to accomplish in over a year...

Thank you very much for everything and please keep up the excellent work assisting the people of Hawaii!

Forever grateful to you both

CONGRESSMAN
ED CASE
Hawaii's District 1

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