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Washington, DC 20515—1101

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Our senior community in Hawai'i continues to grow rapidly with one in five now age 65+. Here is another update on some of my efforts in Congress for our kūpuna.

Improving Social Security and Medicare Benefits. According to the Social Security Administration, 2023 will bring an overdue and essential 8.7% cost of living increase to Social Security benefits, the largest since 1981. Yet these core programs for generations of seniors are on an unsustainable financial path. I continue to advocate for major proposals in Congress to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for present and future beneficiaries.

Reducing Prescription Drug Costs. Earlier this year, Congress passed and the President signed into law significant reforms I have long supported to rein in unacceptable prescription drug costs. Medicare can now directly negotiate drug prices and penalize companies that raise their prices faster than inflation. The law also caps out-of-pocket spending on Part D drugs to \$2,000 a year and on insulin products at \$35 per month. It also makes all recommended vaccines free to seniors with Medicare at no additional cost.

Preventing Scams and Fraud. Seniors are increasingly targeted by scam and fraud efforts, especially email account compromise, technology support setup and Medicare fraud. I work especially through my Appropriations Committee to fully fund federal consumer protection efforts. For information and help, call the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833 FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311).

Please contact me anytime (ed.case@mail.house.gov or 808-650-6688) should you need any further information or assistance. I remain committed to the health and welfare of Hawaii's kūpuna.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy holiday season. Mahalo.

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