#### **United States Representative Ed Case**

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# CONGRESSMAN EDCASE Hawai'i • District 1

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KŪPUNA REPORT Proudly representing Hawai'i residents age 65+ in Congress

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### **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515–1101

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October 2023

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES: DEFENSE HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEES: WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Nearly one in five of our Hawai'i 'ohana are now age 65 or older and our senior population continues to grow rapidly. Here are some of my top efforts in Congress on behalf of our kūpuna and my ongoing offer to help however I can.

**Improving Social Security Benefits.** The Social Security Administration has announced a 3.2% cost-of-living increase in benefits for 2024 following 2023's 8.7% increase. This follows much lower inflation but is clearly still not enough for many beneficiaries. Among other efforts, I have cosponsored the Social Security 2100 Act to assure the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund while improving benefits over the next generation.

**Reducing Prescription Drug Costs.** Last year, with my full support, Congress passed major legislation to rein in rising prescription drug costs. For the first time ever, Medicare is now directly negotiating reduction in drug prices for several high-cost drugs, with lower prices going into effect in 2026. Also, out-of-pocket spending are being capped at \$35 per month for insulin and \$2,000 a year for Part D drugs.

**Preventing Scams and Fraud.** Last Congress I also cosponsored and voted for the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act. This new law creates a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Group and an office focused on fighting spam calls. To report fraud, please call the Securities Fraud Hotline: 1-877-447-2267.

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I remain fully committed to the health and welfare of our Hawaii's kūpuna. Please contact me if you have any questions or I can help you in any way.

Mahalo and aloha,

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