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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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DEFENSE  
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT  
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 9, 2024

**Subject: Congressional Update; Invite to February 27<sup>th</sup> Online Federal Funding for Hawai'i Workshop; Hawai'i Wildfire Prevention/Federal Resources and Assistance; Your Input Requested**

Aloha!

As your Member of Congress representing Hawaii's First District (Honolulu from Makapu'u to Mililani and 'Ewa/Kapolei), I first want to express my deep appreciation for our ongoing partnership in working for our Hawai'i.

As we continue into 2024, I am reaching out to you again as one of my state and local government partners to report back to you on some of my activities in Congress. I also want to invite you to a special workshop I am hosting on February 27<sup>th</sup> on how we can maximize federal funding opportunities for Hawai'i through many channels including Congress' recent multi-trillion dollar infrastructure laws.

I further want to focus with you on federal funding and other resources and assistance we can and should pursue together to prevent, mitigation and respond to any further wildfires. Finally, I seek your continued guidance on additional actions I can take on Capitol Hill and back home to assist your ongoing efforts, both legislatively and especially through my assignments on the House Appropriations Committee and House Natural Resources Committee.

**Appropriations**

My key assignment for Hawai'i remains the House Appropriations Committee. I'm starting my sixth year on Appropriations, which is responsible for all federal discretionary spending (all spending other than for mainly automatic federal benefits programs like Social Security and Medicare). Under our Constitution, no such spending can occur unless first appropriated (authorized and allocated) by Congress, and appropriations must begin in the U.S. House. We make these appropriations annually for each fiscal year; in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 our allocation totaled about \$1.7 trillion.

In the most recent FY 2023 and FY 2024, I have worked to secure funding that addresses key priorities for our state. The following are just some examples of what we can accomplish together through the appropriations process:

1. \$16 billion in additional Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to help communities across the nation, but especially Lahaina, respond to natural disasters.
2. \$1 billion to continue efforts to close Red Hill and ensure the long-term health of O‘ahu’s drinking water aquifer.
3. \$2 million for the Honolulu Fire Department to harden fire station doors.
4. \$175 million for the Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles and Other Protected Species Program, which helps protect various Hawai‘i species such as monk seals and Hawaiian green sea turtles.
5. \$45 million for the Native Hawaiian Education Program.
6. \$5 million to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services to develop a 30-mile active transit corridor connecting East to West O‘ahu.
7. \$3 billion for homeless assistance programs nationwide.

You can see more examples of federal programs I have advocated for through my Appropriations Committee by reading my press release about the FY 2023 omnibus funding bill at <https://bit.ly/3YKiGGu>. Many of these initiatives arose through requests from and partnerships with individuals back home like you.

While we are still finalizing our FY 2024 appropriations, I have already begun working on our FY 2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025) funding bill. Members of the U.S. House are able to submit requests for inclusion in the annual appropriations bills. Because the number of requests is limited, I start early on obtaining, developing and prioritizing them. I am reaching out directly to you for specific requests and directions.

Most requests fall into two categories: funding to sustain existing or new federal programs (programmatic requests) and funding to support specific projects in our community (Community Project Funding). You can learn more about these two types of requests at <https://case.house.gov/services/appropriations-requests.htm>.

Funding requests to my office will be due early this year, likely in March, with the exact date set once my Appropriations Committee announces its internal deadlines. But it is not too early to submit a proposed request. If you need help preparing a request or have any questions about the process, please contact my Appropriations Coordinator, Kainan Miranda, in my Washington, D.C. office at [Kainan.Miranda@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kainan.Miranda@mail.house.gov).

### **Live Online Federal Funding Workshop Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 9AM Hawai‘i Time**

To explain the federal funding process and opportunities and how I can help through my assignment on the Appropriations Committee and otherwise, I am doing another workshop on “Federal Funding for Hawai‘i”. This workshop is designed especially for elected state and county government officials and heads of state and county agencies and your staff. My session will be live online on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 10:30AM Hawai‘i time. I will lead the presentation with assistance from my senior staff, and leave time for questions and answers.

You or your staff can RSVP by emailing [edcase.events@mail.house.gov](mailto:edcase.events@mail.house.gov). We will send out the link to the session a few days before the event.

## **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

Our largest and most wide-reaching federal funding opportunities currently remain the IRA and BIL, two landmark pieces of legislation, both of which I strongly supported, enacted in the 117th Congress (2021-2023). The IRA is the largest climate/energy-related investment in our history. You can learn more about that bill [here](#). The other bill, the BIL (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA) is the largest reinvestment in our country's infrastructure in generations. You can learn more about the BIL [here](#).

These game-changing laws and their many initiatives will ultimately only be fully effective if fully implemented all the way down to our local communities. For my part, this means assuring that I track each of the hundreds of federal programs through which the funding will be distributed and ensure that my government and community partners throughout Hawai'i are fully aware of these opportunities and fully seek and obtain the funding.

While we have had many successes to date, there is still more we can do. I strongly urge you and your staff to review the spreadsheets I set up for both laws that detail the many federal programs Hawai'i can access. My IRA spreadsheet is available [here](#). My BIL spreadsheet is available [here](#).

I will discuss the IRA and BIL in more detail at my February 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Funding for Hawai'i workshop. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-2726 or email me at [ed.case@mail.house.gov](mailto:ed.case@mail.house.gov).

## **Federal Programs and Assistance for Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation and Response**

For the last six months, I have joined my Hawai'i Congressional delegation partners in fully focusing on assuring our federal government does all it can to respond fully at all levels to the tragic Maui wildfires. We have made good progress, including an estimated billion dollars of federal assistance spent or obligated to date, but this will be a years-long effort.

But as critical as that effort is, it is equally important that we fully review where we face similar risks elsewhere in our state and take full action now to prevent another such tragedy. The fact is that the Maui wildfire exposed vulnerabilities in our preparedness for disaster across our state. We must learn and act on the lessons of Maui now including the immediate need to identify and mobilize resources for wildfire risk prevention, mitigation and response.

Our federal government has a major role to play in this effort, one we must be sure to maximize and coordinate. To that end, my office, working with state and county partners, created the enclosed Hawai'i Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation and Response/Federal Resources and Assistance plan. In it, I identify the major federal, state, county and community organizations responsible for addressing wildfire risk along with the major federal programs which provide funding and other assistance to address wildfire risk and response, as well as some specific federal initiatives that will improve these efforts.

I will use this plan as a guide for my own efforts, and ask you to review it especially for opportunities to work with me to expand federal funding and other assistance and otherwise

coordinate our state, local and community efforts with our federal government. I welcome your questions and guidance in improving this plan and pursuing these joint efforts.

### **Staying in Touch**

As always, it is critical to my efforts in Congress to stay in touch with you on your own thoughts and efforts. I welcome meeting with you personally or by phone to talk about how we can best work together to assist our mutual constituents. To request a meeting, you can email my scheduler in my D.C. office at [Kristen.Kimble@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristen.Kimble@mail.house.gov). For other questions, including assistance working with federal agencies or other local issues, please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff based in Honolulu, Jacqueline Conant, at [Jacqueline.Conant@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Conant@mail.house.gov) or (808) 650-6688.

Mahalo again for your continued partnership, and please sign up for regular updates from me and my office through my e-newsletter and social media outreach at <https://case.house.gov/contact>.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Case". The signature is written in a casual, cursive style.

Ed Case  
Hawai'i-First District