

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

**ED CASE**

HAWAII'S FIRST DISTRICT

*Aloha!*

In this quarter's edition of my Neighborhood Board Report, I share with you that my Washington, D.C. and Honolulu office staff and I are now fully up and running hard and fast in

representing our Hawai'i and you on Capitol Hill and back home. I'm excited now to schedule my first full set of Talk Story communities meetings throughout my district (schedule below; please join us.) I'm also appearing regularly on Olelo's Public Access Channel with Reports to Hawai'i, with my second video scheduled to air on several dates in April. See case.house.gov to view my report. I've also just mailed my first newsletter district-wide. If you haven't received it, please visit my Congressional web site at <https://case.house.gov/contact>. Here is some more information on my activities and how we can help you and our communities. As always, I look forward to your questions and input.

Talk Story with Congressman Ed Case

I recently held five Talk Story sessions in the District that I represent – in Honolulu, 'Āina Haina, Kalihi, Waipahu and 'Ewa Beach. This was the first in a series of such sessions I will hold so we can talk about my representation for you and our Hawai'i in Congress. Those who attended were able to learn of my positions on a variety of topics – from my thoughts on issues like campaign finance reform, immigration, and health care; my appointments to the various House committees; and how I've been able to help people with their individual concerns. Please sign up for my newsletter on my official web site at case.house.gov. You will be able to learn about the next series of Talk Story sessions which will enable you to get a personal update from me, to let me know of your thoughts and questions, and to ask for my office's assistance with your own needs. Light refreshments will be served.

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Services

My office will be happy to help you with the following and more:

- Help with a federal agency
- Washington DC tours
- Commendations
- Grant applications
- Internships
- Military academy
- nominations

Protecting Hawai'i's Critical Needs

The best way to know what is critical for our Hawai'i and how best to address it in DC is to view the problem up close and personal and to talk story with the folks directly involved. That's what I did when the Waiawa water pipeline that provides most of the fresh water to more than 90,000 people living and work at and around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. A day after inspecting the break on the ground, **I personally called Phyllis L. Bayer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, and told her directly that the pipeline replacement project was critical to our military and civilian communities.** While the 65-year-old line has since been temporarily repaired, it still must be fully replaced, and I am utilizing my membership on the House Appropriations Committee and otherwise to ensuring that that remains a very high priority.

Working to Restore Our Fiscal Health

I am also taking aim at returning our country to the same fiscally sustainable path that every responsible business and household understands they must follow for their longterm financial health and survival, My concern was heightened recently by government reports that our national debt has now surpassed \$22 trillion, an increase of fully \$13 trillion over the \$9 trillion debt when I last served in Congress. **How bad is it? The interest on our debt is the fastest growing part of our budget - not defense, not education, not Medicare.** As the co-chair of a Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform, I called on my House colleagues at a recent Congressional hearing convened by the House Budget Committee to adopt a fiscally responsible budget for upcoming Fiscal Year 2020. Such a budget would focus on our core functions and discretionary priorities within our means. It would require a whole-budget, long-term approach with bipartisan solutions to one of the most challenging issues facing our country.

Returning Government Back to the People

Shortly after I took the oath of office on January 3rd, I followed up with a promise I made on the campaign trail: to fix our broken government. I co-sponsored what was the very first piece of legislation to come before the New Congress - HR 1, the "For the People Act". This historic reform package seeks to restore the promise of our nation's democracy by ending the culture of corruption in Washington and reducing the role of big money in politics. I am pleased to say that the measure that passed the H.S. House recently also carried with it my personal stamp. **I offered an amendment approved by my colleagues that essentially takes power away from large dollar donors and gives it back to everyday Americans.** This will make small dollar donations more impactful and encourage political party committees to solicit small dollar donations rather than chase solely after large dollar donors.

Protecting Our Natural Heritage

In addition to my appointment to the Appropriations Committee, with responsibility for funding much of the federal government's agencies, programs and services, I was named to another committee - Natural Resources. This Committee has jurisdiction over interests critical to our island home, including the oceans, wilderness areas, national parks and endangered species. **As a member of this Committee, I supported what became the most sweeping measure to protect our natural resources in a decade.** The Natural Resources Management Act will protect approximately 1.3 million acres of wilderness and close to 700,000 acres of recreation and conservation lands nationwide. Of special interest to Hawaii is the re-designation of the former Honouliuli Internment Camp on Oahu, where American citizens primarily of Japanese ancestry were detained during World War II solely because of race, as a National Historic site. The other item of interest is the designation of the Arizona Memorial as a separate site within the National Park Service. The Memorial will now stand alone, together with the Visitor Center, the memorials to the USS Utah and USS Oklahoma, and other structures in Pearl Harbor. This new law will ensure that both the Honouliuli Camp and the Arizona Memorial will continue to tell their stories and teach their lessons to future generations.

There is much more on my efforts to date on my website at case.house.gov. Please visit, and again, please let me know of your thoughts on any issue as well as how my office and I can assist you and yours.

*Mahalo nui loa,
Ed Case*