

CONGRESSMAN ED CASE

Hawai'i • District 1



Aloha!

In this quarter's edition of my Neighborhood Board Report, I first want to again congratulate all those of you who are beginning a new term of service on your Neighborhood Board.

Public service is indeed a higher calling- and nowhere in government is this service as close to those we represent as our Neighborhood Boards. I consider you my full partner, and my staff and I are always available to support you in your efforts to deal with the concerns and issues of our communities.

In this report, I highlight my work in Congress through this first full year as your U.S. Congressman. Much of my efforts have been focused on my work as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, responsible for more than \$1.3 trillion in annual federal funding, and I update you here on those results to date. I was also fortunate to be appointed to the House Natural Resources Committee, responsible for much of what makes our Hawai'i and our world special, and I highlight some of our related activities in this report as well.

Hawai'i has suffered greatly in recent years from natural disasters, and I summarize both federal disaster relief status as well as efforts to maximize our preparedness for any further risks. And I follow-up on my separate E-newsletter to you requesting your assistance in curbing the safety risks and community disruptions caused by tour helicopters and other small aircraft.

Staying in touch with you has always been a priority with me - and I am pleased that you can tune in to a regular program on 'Ōlelo for updates. My "Congressman Case Reports to Hawai'i" community broadcasting show has a regular primetime slot on 'Ōlelo ch.49 every third Sunday at 6 PM and again the following Tuesday at 10AM. There is a new show

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Social Media



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every month on what I'm up to and the issues I'm facing in DC and back home. Each show is also on my YouTube channel at youtube.com/RepEdCase.

Finally, please also visit my web site at Case.house.gov and visit my social media accounts on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube, which can be found on the top-right corner of my official website. Through these sites, I work to keep you up to date with what I've been doing.

Funding the needs of our Hawai'i

When I campaigned last year for my return to Congress, I vowed that, if elected, I would hit the ground running. I was fortunate that my colleagues entrusted me with an appointment to the most powerful committee in the U.S. House, the Appropriations Committee, and with that came the opportunity to deliver as promised. For a more detailed accounting of the programs and projects that have won funding support thus far, please go to my website Case.house.gov.

Here are a few highlights:

H.R. 2740: The Defense provisions of this nearly \$1 trillion bill clearly reflects that the House shares my prioritization of the Asia-Pacific region. Hawaii is in a forward position in this area it is home to the United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). It is the largest combatant command in terms of area of responsibility and assets, but it needs additional resources, and this bill helps to deal with that need.

Harbors in Hawai'i will receive funding assistance, Native Hawaiian programs in the areas of healthcare and education and the East-West Center on the grounds of the University of Hawai'i will all get an assist from this bill

H.R. 3055: My membership on the key House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Science, Justice and Related Agencies, played a key role in delivering federal funding on several items for Hawai'i. This \$383 billion measure will address a long-standing need for facilities that provide critical services at various military installations in our island state, especially as our role in the Indo-Pacific region increases to deal with the challenges in this vast area. I was able to secure \$60 million for Phase 5 of a new Command and Control Facility at Fort Shafter, which is currently housed in World War II buildings, and another \$134 million for additional barracks housing at the Hawai'i Marine Corps Base.

The House also approved more than \$1 billion for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth program, which is critical to reaching out to our veterans in rural and isolated populations across our islands in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the Pacific.

This bill also includes funding boosts for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a critical resource because of the agency's world-class research in all things related to our oceans, and especially now as we rely on NOAA's forecasting expertise as we find ourselves in the midst of hurricane season.

H.R. 3351: This \$25 billion funding measure focuses on securing our democracy, strengthening small business and protecting consumers. The \$600 million in this measure will help states and localities to secure their election systems from any and all interference in the 2020 elections. Securing our elections ensure our confidence in the results of those elections.

Another \$900 million will go to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and more than \$200 million of that amount will go to SBA programs nationwide like the Small Business Development Centers and the Women's Business Centers, two programs that have been successful in Hawai'i.

This measure also incorporates my Appropriation Committee's expressed concern with the rapidly growing problem of robocalls, and urges the Federal Communications Commission to create a detailed plan and timeline for potentially creating a Robocall Division within the Enforcement Bureau.

Again, you can find a full description of these funding measures in press releases on my official website.

Fighting the challenges to our environment

On May 31st this year, on the eve of the very first "World Reef Day", I took part in a beach cleanup in Kahuku. While I was there to help clear the beach of all manner of human trash - from plastics to nets and cans and much more - I was reminded of my years growing up on the Big Island, where I would be in the ocean every chance I could to see the healthy and expanding coral reefs and schools of fish. Back then, we never came across the kind of pollution and trash that we unfortunately see all too often on our beaches, and of course our corals and fish are just a fraction of what they were just decades ago.

With that personal history, and as a representative of an island state in the middle of the world's largest ocean, I am well aware of how much we rely on our ocean. Our world-famous beaches are a major feature for our tourism industry. And for our residents, the ocean is many things to many people - as a recreational playground, as a critical source

of sustenance in the culture of Native Hawaiians, and as a means of livelihood for our fishermen who deliver their catches to markets and restaurants.

As a member now of the main House panel responsible for protecting our environment on land, sea, and air, I have now participated in many hearings and votes to protect and sustain our precious resources across our country and world. As one example, during the vote on HR9, the Climate Action Now Act, I was also able to win the support of my colleagues to recognize that when we talk about the impacts of man-made climate change on the world's atmosphere and land, we must include the largest world of all - our oceans. My speech on the House Floor can be viewed on my Youtube channel. I will continue to fight to protect our natural resources both here and across our nation - for us and for future generations.

Facing the threats of natural disaster

In June, I voted for an emergency supplemental disaster aid bill that was later signed into law by the President with millions slated to help communities in Hawai'i hit hard by natural disasters last year. This bill will provide critical disaster relief for floods and volcanic activity that impacted O'ahu, Kaua'i, and the Big Island, including agricultural programs, infrastructure restoration, coastal recovery, and more. The bill also extends the National Flood Insurance program through September 30, 2019.

As we find ourselves in the midst of hurricane season, we rely on the great team with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to look out far beyond the horizon to keep track of approaching storms. As the long-range forecast calls for an above-average storm season this year, I was briefed on NOAA's expertise when I attended the agency's Hurricane Preparedness Event on the first day of the hurricane season - June 1st.

Earlier this year, in recognition of what NOAA is doing for us, I introduced what has come to be my first bill since my return to Congress, a measure that recognizes and improves the status of the smallest uniformed service in our country - the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps that counts the famous "hurricane hunters" among its members. Our NOAA is on the cutting edge of world-class research of our air and oceans, much of it around our island home. I introduced the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps Amendment Act to maintain the best and brightest officer corps through recruitment and retention reforms. I will keep you up to date as the measure moves in the Congress. In the meantime, we should also do our part by preparing our hurricane kits and making plans on where to shelter if a storm were to come ashore.

Addressing the safety risks and disruption of tour helicopters

Even before the tragic helicopter crash that claimed the lives of 3 people in Kailua in April, I have had heard major and increasing concerns from throughout O'ahu and the whole state with escalating flights of tour helicopters and other small aircraft. Then came the tragic accident at Mokulē'ia that claimed the lives of 11 people - the worst aviation accident of its kind since 2011. I recently sent Board members outlining my concerns and my reasons for pushing for increased regulation of all aspects of our operations. I also asked all Boards to consider adopting resolutions expressing your concerns and calling on federal, state and local officials to take all steps necessary to address community safety and disruption concerns through substantially increased regulation. These resolutions will show the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other agencies that the problem with tour helicopters is real and regulations need to be in place in order to prevent another tragedy like the ones in Kailua and Mokulē'ia and to keep people safe both in aircraft as well as on the ground, and to also eliminate disruption of whole communities across our state.

Answering your Questions and Serving Your Needs

In addition to these and many more activities, my staff and I are busy meeting with folks and groups throughout our district and in DC to better understand how we can help, in addition to reviewing and answering thousands of communications, assisting many constituents with your individual concerns ranging from immigration and Social Security, Medicare and veterans benefits to other areas, and hosting and arranging tours for visitors from home in our nation's capital. We very much look forward to hearing from you on anything we might be able to assist you with both here in our island home and in DC.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to update you on my activities as your Congressman and to serve you and our Hawai'i in Congress.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ed Case