



Papa Ola Lōkahi

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Congressman Ed Case

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110
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2210 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515

Aloha Congressman Case,

I am writing on behalf of Papa Ola Lokahi regarding the application of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV) for HRSA funds to construct Hale Lauele, a health facility for 'āina-based healing and native health and well-being at the 100-acre nature preserve, Ho'oulu 'Aina on O'ahu.

It is critical for Hawai'i that spaces like Ho'oulu 'Aina to continue to perpetuate ancestral knowledge of healing and caring for the land. A physical center for indigenous health affords opportunities for community to connect to land and to each other protects and uplifts the vitality of our land and people long impacted by the negative health effects of colonization. *Mauliola* is the Hawaiian concept of health and wellbeing uplifting the true origins of life and vitality. Through this health facility, KKV intends with this center to address mauliola in its depth and breadth, creating access to 'āina, the most important healing factor for native peoples, as well as education and training for health professionals and community healers, land-based career pathways for youth, open-air gathering space for indigenous health classes, and responsible processing of invasive trees that negatively impact our native forest. This holistic approach to health demonstrates the values of Hawai'i and the unique opportunity for Hawai'i to be a model for other communities across the nation.

Papa Ola Lokahi have long supported KKV's efforts in mālama 'āina, lā'au lapa'au, and native Hawaiian health advocacy and education, and Ho'oulu 'Aina's work in upland Kalihi is a celebrated example of positive collaboration and integration between western traditional medical practices and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island traditional healing practices. The success of KKV in upland Kalihi furthers the hopes of Papa Ola Lokahi to see a thriving Hawai'i.

Please support KKV's request for funding for this important project.

Sincerely,

Sheri Daniels, EdD – Executive Director