



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
WINDWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 15, 2021

Congressman Ed Case
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110 Honolulu, HI 96813
2210 Rayburn House Washington, DC 20515

Aloha Congressman Case,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaiian Studies Program at Windward Community College of the University of Hawai'i System regarding the application of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV) for HRSA funds to construct Hale Lauēle, a health facility for 'aina-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. *Mauliōla* 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 *mauliōla* in its depth and breadth, creating access to 'aina, 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.

Honolulu Community College has long supported KKV's efforts in malama '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 Honolulu Community College to see a thriving Hawai'i.

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

Sincerely,

P. Kalawai'a Moore
Associate Professor and Director, Hawaiian Studies
Windward Community College
peterm@hawaii.edu
(808) 778-3808