



Aloha, Friend.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, I would like to again update you on my work in Congress for our country, our Hawai'i and you and yours. I also don't want to close out 2022 without again extending my gratitude to you and your fellow Board members throughout my district for being my full partners in assisting our mutual constituents.

Partnering With Local Law Enforcement To Combat Crime

Murders, assaults, robberies ... these are rapidly increasing community concerns, and the statistics bear them out. Violent crime has risen – up nearly 6% for the first seven months of this year - as we all emerge from the pandemic and enter “the new normal.”

While our dedicated local law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and communities are on the front lines of addressing crime, Congress is fully supporting their efforts to curb criminal activity and keep our communities safe. In just September, I voted in the full House for passage of a public safety package of a number of measures, including:

- **Invest to Protect Act:** This measure calls for funding smaller police agencies through grants to retain and recruit officers, reduce the use of force and invest in strong accountability measures, including de-escalation training; improved response to substance use disorders;

improved support for survivors of domestic violence; and promoting a duty of care.

- VICTIM Act: This measure calls for bolstering law enforcement agencies' capacity to investigate and close cases of violent crime through new funding to:
 - hire and train detectives to investigate homicides, sexual assaults and other violent crime
 - ensure victim services are funded, staffed and trained to address the needs of survivors and family members
 - acquire and upgrade investigative technology to better process evidence
- Break the Cycle of Violence Act: This measure builds on our American Rescue Plan's life-saving investments in effective, evidence-based community violence prevention solutions, helping community organizations and local governments to:
 - hire violence intervention and prevention specialists
 - offer intensive counseling, peer support and mediation services to survivors
 - provide culturally-responsive social services for [STATERS] at the highest risk for involvement in community violence
- Mental Health Justice Act: This measure aims to save lives by supporting the deployment of unarmed mental health professionals when responding to mental health crises in communities.

As a member of our U.S. House Appropriations Committee, responsible for allocating the money necessary to operate federal government agencies, departments and organizations on an annual basis, I also continued my support of full funding of various programs for local law enforcement including \$171 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (out of which last year the Hawai'i Attorney General's office was awarded \$957,000.00 for its various criminal justice programs), and \$544 million for Community Oriented Policing Services grants.

Renewed Focus On The Strategically Vital Indo-Pacific Region

President Biden has just concluded a historic first-ever summit at the White House with leaders of the nations of the Pacific Islands. I advocated for this summit, was honored to host the leaders in Congress, and believe that the meetings demonstrated full U.S. re-engagement with our friends and partners across our Pacific.

Our 'ohana throughout the Pacific may appear to those not from our island communities as small dots on a global map, but even President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1942 knew not to underestimate their importance as “they cover a large strategic area.” I shared that view when I helped to create the first-ever Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus in 2019, saying then: “I have been convinced for some time that our country’s and world’s future are in the Indo-Pacific, and the islands of the Pacific are a key yet too-often-overlooked part of that region.”

I went on to say that “we have longstanding partnerships and critical strategic and other interests throughout the Pacific Islands, not to mention that whole generations fought and won the Second World War and earlier conflicts here. Yet now they are increasingly under severe economic and environmental stress, and China is actively seeking to grow its influence. We cannot now turn away from the Pacific, and the Caucus is dedicated to assuring that that does not happen.”

One of the key take-aways from the U.S.-Pacific Island Country Summit was the President’s commitment to renew the Compacts of Free Association (COFAs) between our country and the nations of Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. The COFAs, their subsidiary agreements and enacting legislation define a decades-old special and mutually beneficial relationship and provide our country with valuable economic and security benefits. But we must still fight in Hawai’i and other locations where residents from the COFA countries have settled for full federal government assistance with the often unique needs of our neighbors.

Deadline approaching for App Challenge applications

Another reminder to share with those who may be interested: My Congressional App challenge is open to all middle and high school students in my 1st Congressional District of Hawai'i (O'ahu from Makapu'u Point through urban Honolulu to Mililani and down through Waipahu and Ewa Beach/Kapolei/Ko Olina to Kahe Point).

The winning individual or team will be invited to Washington, DC for a reception and a two-day science fair called #HouseofCode, though airfare and accommodations are not provided.

All winners will also have their apps displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building for a year and receive various small prizes. Each participant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Age: Students must be in middle or high school on November 1, 2022.
- Location: Students must either reside or attend school in the 1st Congressional District of Hawai'i.
- Teams: Students can compete as individuals or in teams of up to four students, in which at least two students must reside or attend school in the district.

The deadline to register and submit an app to my office is Tuesday, November 1, 2022, by 12:00 PM EDT. For more information on how to sign up as an entrant and the timeline for the competition, please reach out to my district office staffer, Kirra Empting, at kirra.empting@mail.house.gov.

As always, I deeply appreciate your consideration and assistance as we all work to find the best way forward for our country and Hawai'i. For more information on my efforts, and how we can help you, please visit my website at case.house.gov. If I can help you and yours with your own questions and needs, email us at ed.case@mail.house.gov, or call us at (808) 650-6688.

Be safe and be well.

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