



October 10, 2023

Aloha!

Aloha, Friend.

As we enter the last quarter of 2023, I would like to update you again on my work in Congress for our country and Hawai'i and the communities we both represent.

Working To Keep Our Skies And Communities Quiet And Safe

Earlier this month, I joined with many others in submitting comments expressing serious reservations on the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed rules on commercial air tour helicopter and small aircraft operations in our Hawai'i. If adopted, these rules would go into effect next spring. My comments are [here](#).

Working To Address The Tragic Maui Wildfires

My office and I continue to work full time to assist our Maui 'ohana wherever and however we can to address the tragic Maui wildfires. This includes our Congressional delegation's successful effort to fund an additional \$16 billion to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund which is the main source of the Maui disaster relief.

To help businesses on O'ahu that have suffered economic impacts due to the wildfires on Maui, the U.S. Small Business Administration has changed its rules to allow businesses in all Hawai'i counties eligibility for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). EIDLs can help a business with working capital to keep them in business during the recovery period. A business on Oahu can find out how to qualify for an EIDL [here](#) and can also reach out to the SBA Business Recovery Center located at the Hawaii Foreign Trade Zone No. 9 [here](#).

If you know anyone who is struggling to deal with the tragedy on Maui, please go to my web page [here](#) where I constantly update resources to assist individuals, families and communities affected by the wildfires.

But we must also act now throughout our state including O'ahu on the lessons of Maui; otherwise we risk repeating this tragedy. More than 80 percent of Hawai'i is now in moderate to severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor map released in September. The National Weather Service (NWS) says below-average rainfall, combined with seasonally warm temperatures, has worsened drought conditions across four counties in Hawai'i. According to the NWS, the ongoing dry conditions helped to fuel wildfires in the state in August, and, based on the rainfall outlook, drought conditions should continue to expand and intensify across the state over the next several months.

As one part of our effort to mitigate wildfire risk, I supported and submitted remarks in September on the Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions (ACRES) Act to require full assessments of wildfire risks. Read my comments [here](#). Much more must be done, though, to accurately and specifically identify and mitigate risks on O'ahu, and I am working with the State and the City and County to identify and fund what is needed.

Working On Your Individual Concerns: Casework

I remain committed to assisting our mutual constituents with individual questions or concerns, especially regarding our federal government, whenever and however I can. Much of what we refer to as casework includes issues like immigration, veterans benefits, small business problems, and social security, though we receive a great variety of questions and requests.

Last year, our office completed 1,217 cases. Here is a sample of the satisfactory outcomes this year on behalf of our constituents:

1. "Thank you for calling me the other day and for helping me get my driver's license. I was able to obtain my gold star today and I can now travel and drive my mom after her surgery. It really means a lot to me. I'm so grateful. Thank you."
2. "Hooray, we received payment from the Government today. (Confirmed in the bank). Please send my thank you to Ed Case for all the work you and he did to move this to a closure. After three years of run arounds, we finally got paid. Thank you."
3. "Many thanks for your advocacy in helping me to resolve the insurance premium error by OPM. I received a letter today to say it was resolved with a reimbursement of what I paid since January. Bless you for your help!"

If you or any of our constituents has a question or concern, please feel free to contact me [here](#).

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.

*Mahalo nui loa,
Ed Case*

P.S. Please sign up for my regular e-newsletter [here](#).

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