



Aloha, Friend.

As we enter the second half of the year, I want to share some of the issues I'm addressing on behalf of our country, our Hawai'i and our mutual constituents.

As always, much of my work, which I pursue mainly through my House Appropriations Committee, has focused on ensuring that our island home gets its fair share of federal funding. While this work is ongoing, I report here on some specifics. I also share with you two of my recent efforts to stay in touch with home on issues of importance.

### **Record Military Construction Funding For Hawai'i**

National defense in Hawai'i, besides being critical to our country, is the second largest part of our local economy, providing thousands of quality jobs in construction, engineering, ship building and repair and more. My Appropriations Committee recently approved more than \$1.55 billion in military construction for Hawaii, the most of any state for Fiscal Year 2025.

By allocating fully 8% of our total national and worldwide military construction budget to Hawai'i, we are making a generational reinvestment in Hawai'i in the critical facilities we need to meet the challenges of the Indo-Pacific. Some \$1.2 billion, the largest share of total budget allocated to Hawai'i, is to continue construction of new Drydock 5 at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, the largest and most expensive project in U.S. Navy history. Read more on this funding measure for military construction and veterans programs [here](#).

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### **Hawaii's Critical Role In The Indo-Pacific**

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I also worked on our overall defense funding bill for Fiscal Year 2025. This measure provides billions of dollars for programs critical to our national security interests in the Indo-Pacific, while also continuing to recognize the critical role Hawai'i plays in the region. Our measure included my request to continue funding toward decommissioning of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, environmental remediation, state and local community engagement in Hawai'i and a more distributive fuel infrastructure for the Indo-Pacific. This is in addition to the \$2.2 billion previously secured by me and my delegation colleagues for the closure of Red Hill. You can read more details on this funding measure as well as our bill to support programs for federal assistance to small business [here](#).

### **Helping Hawaii Better Deal With Disaster**

I also sit on the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Homeland Security, which is responsible for funding federal disaster prevention and response programs. Our FY 2025 measure included my request for \$1.1 million in partial funding for the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to develop a Community Disaster Preparedness Information Platform for Hawai'i. This is one of my Member-designated Community Project Funding (CPF) projects that specifically focuses on local needs in Hawai'i.

The project would work to establish an information sharing platform that enables direct collaboration between HI-EMA and local companies, nonprofit organizations and anchor institutions during normal times and during disasters. This new tool for HI-EMA will ensure accurate, timely and unified messaging in the event of a disaster. In the wake of the 2023 Maui wildfires, our Hawai'i is in need of a statewide unified messaging system to improve coordination with local and county emergency response agencies more than ever.

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Read [here](#) for more on what I was able to secure in the Homeland Security funding measure as well in a separate funding bill for foreign affairs programs with ties to Hawai'i.

### **Automatic Enrollment In Selective Service And Other Defense Policies**

Separately, each year Congress considers the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the annual authority for, and direction to, our U.S. military and other critical defense efforts. There were many positive provisions of our House version of the NDAA that if enacted will strengthen America's national security interests in the Indo-Pacific, boost Hawaii's economy and continue to improve the relationship between the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the local community. You can read about all that [here](#).

The House-passed NDAA also includes a provision regarding selective service (sometimes known as the draft), as follows:

*“Every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six, shall be automatically registered under this Act by the Director of the Selective Service System.”*

The Selective Service System maintains a list of draft-age men in the event a draft is directed. At present it is largely up to men of draft age to register; most do but around 14% do not, often through simply not knowing or other reasons that are not purposeful avoidance. Young men who fail to register face various consequences including non-eligibility for federal programs like student loans. The provision simply provides for automatic registration once young men arrive at the age of registration.

**I emphasize that this provision does not institute an actual draft and there is no move to reinstate the draft, which has not been in effect since January 1973.**

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### **Talking Story With My District Online**

In June, I hosted another of my live districtwide community meeting Tele-Talk Stories. I shared with the thousands who joined in my activities in Congress and addressed more than thirty questions on a variety of topics. You can catch a replay of that session [here](#).

I also hosted a very topical live discussion online on artificial intelligence and what Congress is doing to address the technological, economic and social impacts of advances in AI, especially to ensure that it benefits Americans while dealing with any concerns with respect to privacy and security. You can catch a replay of my conversation with my special guest, Austin Bonner, the Deputy U.S. Chief Technology officer for Policy with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy [here](#).

### **Nominations To Service Academies**

An appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a distinct and rare honor. I'm always proud when a young man or woman from Hawai'i applies to and is accepted at any of our four military service academies and take my responsibility to nominate applicants from my district very seriously.

Acceptance of an academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service. To be eligible for appointment, you must be an American citizen, at least 17 years old and not yet 23 years old on July 1st of the year you enter an academy (25 years old for United States Merchant Marine Academy).

It is that time of year when I again begin the process of receiving applications for my nomination, reviewing applications and making nominations for the upcoming school year, this year beginning in Summer 2025. My deadline to receive applications from eligible residents of my district (Honolulu from Makapu'u to Mililani and Kapolei) is Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. For detailed information on how to seek a Congressional appointment to a service academy, visit my website [here](#).

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For any questions on my activities as your U.S. Representative, including resources and how to get in touch with us, please visit my website: [case.house.gov](http://case.house.gov). You can also call my Honolulu district office and staff, who join many of your meetings, at (808) 650-6688, or email us at [ed.case@mail.house.gov](mailto:ed.case@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. I look forward to seeing you soon and thank you again for your invaluable service.

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