

JOHN M. MIZUNO
Vice Speaker



DELLA AU BELATTI
House Majority Leader

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case
United States Congressman
United States House of Representatives
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96813

2210 Rayburn House
Washington, DC 20515

Aloha Congressman Case,

We are writing on behalf of Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV) who are in the process of securing funds for the construction of Hale Lauele, 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.

As a community health center and federally qualified health center, KKV provides a host of essential medical, dental, behavioral, elder care, maternal child health, youth and other programs and services to families and individuals of Kalihi Valley. It is critical that spaces like Ho'oulu 'Aina continue to perpetuate ancestral knowledge of healing and caring for the land. A physical center for indigenous health affords opportunities for the community to connect to land and to each other, protects and uplifts the vitality of our land and people long impacted by negative health effects. *Maulio/a* is the Hawaiian concept of health and wellbeing uplifting the true origins of life and vitality. Through this health facility, KKV intends to address mauiola 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.

We therefore respectfully request any assistance in securing federal funds to enable the completion of Hale Lauele and allow KKV to continue its vital mission of serving the needs of the Kalihi Valley community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at (808) 586-6050 (Representative Mizuno) or at (808) 586-9425 (Representative Belatti).

With warmest mahalo and best wishes,

Representative John M. Mizuno
Vice Speaker
House District 28
Hawaii House of Representatives

Representative Della Au Belatti
House Majority Leader
House District 24
Hawaii House of Representatives