

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
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DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

April 26, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Ed Case  
U.S. House of Representatives  
c/o [kainan.miranda@mail.house.gov](mailto:kainan.miranda@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Case:

I am grateful for your consideration and support of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding Proposal, City & County of Honolulu Street and Park Tree Inventory, and express my strong support for this joint proposal between the City and County of Honolulu (City) Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Urban Forestry and Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. During these difficult economic times I have challenged City agencies to maximize funding opportunities and increase efficiencies in our work to bring meaningful and equitable improvements to the residents of this island.

Our residents deserve effective operational management systems and informed decision-making to address social equity and climate change adaptation. A complete and updated street and park tree inventory—critical City infrastructure—is foundational for maintaining and enhancing our community forest.

Just like with other City assets and infrastructure planning, we must be methodical and intentional with our street and park trees' maintenance and growth. This project proposal is an essential step for implementing our O'ahu Resilience Strategy Action 33, Keep O'ahu Cool by Maintaining and Enhancing the Community Forest. We have been coordinating with both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on receiving updated land cover change data and a tree canopy analysis. The USFS Urban Forestry Toolkit lists a tree canopy analysis and tree inventory as the first and second steps to implementing urban forestry. Your support towards our project proposal is both timely and critical as we take steps toward a more climate ready O'ahu.

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We stand ready to partner on this federal funding opportunity and thank you for the consideration and support of this essential project. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Gonser, City Chief Resilience Officer and Executive Director of my Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, at (808) 768-2276 or via email at [matthew.gonser@honolulu.gov](mailto:matthew.gonser@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rick Blangiardi  
Mayor