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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

June 9, 2022

Subject: Civic Education: “How Our Federal Government Works”; Two Personal Videos From U.S. Congressman Ed Case On Capitol Hill

Dear _____:

I first want to express my deep appreciation for your commitment and service in educating our young people. As a product myself of Hawai‘i public and private education, I am grateful every day for the teachers who molded my life, as you are doing now for our next generations. Thank you so much.

I believe a few things about our government. First, it is (or should be) all of our government. Second, that only truly happens when we all participate in our government, whether by simply voting or by joining in government activities or even by serving in government. Third, to participate in our government we must first understand and appreciate it. And fourth, the earlier we are exposed to our government, the more likely we will understand and appreciate it, participate in it, and make it ours.

In this spirit, I produced for your use with your students two versions of a video, “How Our Federal Government Works”, of me talking personally from Capitol Hill about our government and related subjects. My goals are to provide not only the basics of the structure and function of our government in my own words, but a personal view of my job as a U.S. Congressman, as well as the value of education and participating in government.

The videos run 28 minutes and 10 minutes. The shorter one is excerpts from the longer one and may be more appropriate to younger students. Here is a quick outline of the longer one:

- (1) Our Constitution and the three branches of our federal government
- (2) How our laws are made
- (3) My job as Congressman representing Hawai‘i and how I get it done
- (4) The importance of keeping in touch with my constituents and how I do
- (5) How to get information and encouraging students to participate
- (6) The role of education in my life; some teachers that made a difference
- (7) Encouraging students to discuss the issues and to value their teachers

(8) Encouraging students to vote as soon as they can and to register early

They are organized so you can play them straight through or in specific segments.

You can access the videos off my [YouTube page](#) or the following links:

- <https://youtu.be/92CjEMsJ9aY> (10-minute version) or
- <https://youtu.be/wlupEUwYZr8> (30-minute version).

If you have any specific questions about the videos or other issues you would like me to address, please email Nick Luna, my Legislative Assistant in my D.C. office for education, Nick.Luna@mail.house.gov or Kirra Empting, who coordinates my education outreach in my Honolulu office, Kirra.Empting@mail.house.gov. We are fully available to answer your questions, address your concerns and assist you and your students in their education.

Please also feel free to forward my letter and videos on to anyone who you think might find them useful and sign up for regular updates from me and my office through my e-newsletter and social media outreach at <https://case.house.gov/contact>.

A heartfelt mahalo nui loa again for your own invaluable service. I look forward to staying in touch and to serving you wherever and however I can.

With aloha,



Ed Case
Hawai'i-First District