



Congressman Ed Case

**Proudly Representing Hawai'i's Second Congressional District
Islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Kaho'olawe, Lana'i, Moloka'i, O'ahu (Windward, North Shore,
Central, Leeward), Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands**



Dear Friend:

I am proud and humbled to serve you and 600,000 of our fellow citizens in the two-year 108th Congress, which began in January 2003. With the 2004 session half over, it's time for me to report back to you again on my actions as your Congressman and to ask for your continued guidance.

These are trying times, and the issues I address in Congress are difficult and often controversial. The most complex and divisive are our country's foreign policy, particularly Iraq, and our federal budget deficit. But they range over all of our nation's and world's concerns, from terrorism and instability overseas, to taxes, jobs, healthcare, homeland security, veterans, seniors, poverty, our environment and much more. And at home in Hawai'i we face special challenges with education, drugs, transportation, housing and other concerns.

My job is to combine your guidance with the sum total of my knowledge and experience and the resources of my Congressional office to provide you with the best possible representation in our federal government. This means (1) making the best decisions possible on the national and international issues of our day, (2) assuring that our federal government is doing all it can to help us here with our state and local concerns, and (3) helping you with your individual needs.

This also means keeping in constant touch. I believe in bringing my office to your doorstep where you live and work; thus far I've personally done 56 Talk Story community meetings throughout our Second Congressional District in which thousands have participated, and I'm out on the road this summer with another 23. I've answered close to 50,000 communications from you, met with thousands of you at community events and my Hawai'i and D.C. offices, helped hundreds of you with your cases, and sent a regular e-mail newsletter to thousands as well.

Still, there's so much more to be done. In this newsletter I summarize just some of my efforts thus far. I also highlight our primary challenge today and down the road: balancing our federal budget. I additionally focus on federal resources, and on casework, including an invitation to an immigration seminar I'm sponsoring in all four counties, and report back on past surveys. Finally, I provide information on how you can contact my office, and encourage you again to sign up for my e-mail newsletter.

It is a deep honor and privilege to represent you in the United States Congress. I look forward to seeing you soon!

With aloha,

Ed

Ed Case
United States Congressman
Hawai'i

2004 Congressional Report

108th Congress Highlights

It's impossible to list all of my efforts as your Congressman during the 108th Congress, but here are a few highlights. For more information or details, please contact us, or else visit our website at www.house.gov/case.

- Cosponsored comprehensive national economic recovery legislation
- Advocated for nation's small businesses as a member of the U.S. House Committee on Small Business
- Fought for access by Hawai'i businesses (especially small businesses) to federal contracts
- Advocated for sugar, pineapple, diversified agriculture and ranching as a member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
- Cosponsored Visa Waiver Program extension to increase foreign tourism
- Voted against \$2 trillion total national debt increase in just two years
- Cosponsored proposed national commission to review unnecessary federal programs and recommend termination, modification or retention
- Advocated for support and improvement of education as a member of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Traveled officially to Middle East (Iraq, Kuwait, Israel, Palestinian Authority) to personally assess intervention and issues and visit troops
- Voted for year-by-year supplemental appropriations for Afghanistan/Iraq as necessary to complete transfer of sovereignty and reasonably withdraw, subject to regular and full expenditure reporting to Congress
- Cosponsored legislation creating an independent commission on Iraq intelligence to assess absence of weapons of mass destruction
- Fought to preserve/enhance veterans benefits, including concurrent receipt, survivor benefit plan and burial allowance



Congressman Case thanks participants in RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) for their community service.



Congressman Case participates in NEA's Read-Across-America (honoring the 100th birthday of Dr. Seuss) and discusses the importance of reading at Kailua Elementary School.

- Opposed ANWR drilling, roadless rule repeal, exemption of military, and other efforts to weaken national environmental protections
- Introduced/advocated for creation/expansion of federal protection of endangered Hawai'i lands including (Kaua'i) Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge; (Maui) South Maui National Seashore ('Ahihi-Kina'u to Kanaloa Point), North Shore Heritage Park (Pa'ia), and Haleakala National Park (Nu'u); and (Hawai'i Island) Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (Kahuku Ranch)
- Cosponsored federal regulation of cruise line ocean discharges
- Cosponsored/advocated for programs/funding to eliminate invasive species, including brown tree snake, coqui frog, miconia and marine invasives
- Supported full federal sanctuary status for Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- Cosponsored prohibition of discriminatory pricing policies in gas sales, expansion of renewable energy development tax credits, and implementation of national renewable portfolio standards
- Cointroduced/advocated for federal recognition of Native Hawaiians
- Opposed weakening of worker overtime protections and elimination of Department of Defense collective bargaining
- Advocated increased funding of advanced medical research into multiple diseases at National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Cointroduced the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care
- Pursued community health center creation/funding (e.g. O'ahu/North Shore, Moloka'i, West Hawai'i) and other rural health initiatives

108th Congress Highlights



Congressman Case joins the late Goro Hokama and Lana'i community to dedicate new community bulletin board at the Goro Hokama Post Office in Lana'i City.

- Fought high prescription drug prices through support for reimportation, bulk purchasing, and reduced Medicare charges
- Advocated Section 8 increased funding and expansion, a National Housing Trust Fund, and other enhanced federal affordable housing assistance
- Urged Senate ratification of Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Introduced/secured enactment of law to designate postal facility at Pa'ia, Maui as Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building
- Secured in House federal transportation reauthorization measure various district traffic improvements, including Kapa'a Bypass, Farrington Hwy upgrades, Kahului Airport access (also worked with state to confirm Lahaina Bypass), Waimea Bypass, Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy widening, Puainako extension, and East Hawai'i alternative access study
- Secured funding of various district harbor and water projects, including Kawaihae Harbor modifications feasibility, Kaunapau Harbor repair/upgrade, Kihei beach erosion, 'Iao Stream flood control, Kahuku watershed flood control, and Barbers Point and Nawiliwili Harbor expansion/upgrades
- Through membership on the Congressional Caucus to Control and Fight Methamphetamine, introduction/advocacy of program and funding legislation, testimony before congressional committees and otherwise, heightened both awareness and funding of ice-related needs nationally and obtained increased funding of Hawai'i war on ice
- Advocated for numerous federal efforts directed at crime prevention and prosecution including Weed 'n Seed (expansion to Second Congressional District), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Bulletproof Vest Partnership, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, Byrne Memorial Grant, and enhanced DNA testing
- Opposed Federal Communications (FCC) media ownership consolidation rules
- Advocated full FCC enforcement of indecency and profanity prohibitions on broadcast TV and radio

- Obtained increase to \$30 million in annual mandatory federal government impact aid payments to Hawai'i and other jurisdictions arising from renegotiated Compacts of Free Association with the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia
- Conducted 56 Talk Story community town hall meetings across the district with 23 more scheduled this summer, as follows:

Hawai'i Island (Hilo, Pahoa, Volcano, Pahala, Na'alehu, Ocean View, Kealahou, Kealahou, Keahole, Waikoloa, Kohala, Waimea, Honoka'a, Laupahoehoe); **Maui** (Lahaina, Kihei, Wailuku, Kahului, Pa'ia, Makawao, Pukalani, Hana); **Lana'i** (Lana'i City); **Moloka'i** (Kaunakakai, Ho'olehua, Kalaupapa); **O'ahu** (Waimanalo, Kailua, Kane'ohe, Hau'ula, La'ie, Kahuku, Sunset Beach, Hale'iwa, Wai'anae, Waipahu, Kapolei, Makakilo, Nanakuli, Ma'ili, Wai'anae); **Kaua'i** (Kekaha, Waimea, Kalaheo, Lihue, Kapa'a, Anahola, Kilauea, Hanalei) [For more information on upcoming Talk Stories, please use any of the contacts on the back page.]

- Introduced 17 bills, cosponsored over 400 bills, and spoke on the House floor or submitted remarks on over 60 occasions
- Answered nearly 50,000 communications from Hawaii residents
- Welcomed over 3,000 visitors to our offices



Congressman Case attends a Washington D.C. event addressing national Asian and Pacific Islander issues with colleague Mike Honda of California.

Focus on Casework



Congressman Case discusses Native Hawaiian issues on Moloka'i

A key part of my job as your Congressman is “casework:” assisting you with your individual concerns, mainly with our federal government. Examples of casework include veterans or social security benefits, but they can include most any problem on which you need special help.

I have two great caseworkers in my Hawai‘i office who specialize in this area, and I welcome your contacting them directly at the numbers or direct e-mails below. They and their casework specialties are as follows:

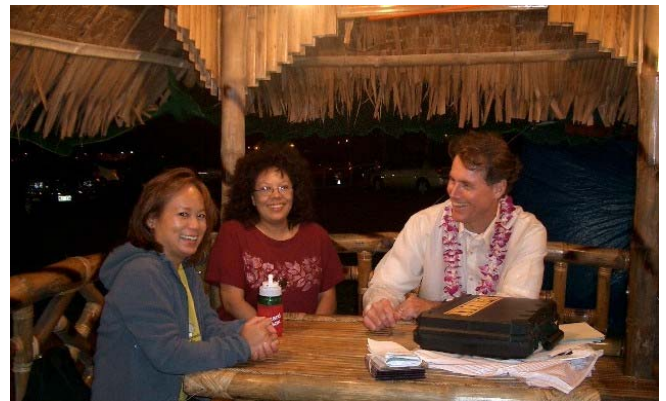
Jackie Conant: immigration, education, labor, business, taxes, agriculture, transportation, health and human services. jacqueline.conant@mail.house.gov.

Liane Ashikawa: Social Security, veterans, military, Transportation Security Administration/Homeland Security, housing, and postal matters. liane.ashikawa@mail.house.gov.

Local Numbers: Hawai‘i Island 935-3756; Maui 242-1818; Moloka‘i 552-0160; Lana‘i 565-7199; O‘ahu 541-1986; Kaua‘i/Ni‘ihau 245-1951

DISTRICT-WIDE IMMIGRATION WORKSHOPS

By far the largest part of my casework involves immigration. Our immigration laws are complex and increasingly difficult, and it’s clear that many of you have many questions on immigration. I am hosting, in conjunction with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly called the Immigration and Naturalization Services), workshops on immigration throughout my district. Please come to any of the following workshops to understand our immigration laws and get on-the-spot personal attention from USCIS and my caseworkers. Participants will include officials from USCIS Laguna Niguel, California and Honolulu offices, and Jacqueline Conant, my immigration caseworker. USCIS Honolulu District Office toll free number: 1-800-375-5283.



Congressman Case discusses issues of concern to Hawai‘i’s Filipino community at Maui’s Barrio Fiesta.

August 16-21, 2004

<i>Island</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Kaua‘i	August 16, 2004 Monday	5-8 p.m.	Kaua‘i Veterans Center 3215 Kapule Hwy., Lihu‘e
Maui	August 17, 2004 Tuesday	5-8 p.m.	Maui Arts and Cultural Center One Cameron Way, Kahului
East Hawai‘i	August 18, 2004 Wednesday	5-8 p.m.	County of Hawai‘i Aupuni Conference Rm, 101 Pauahi St., Hilo
West Hawai‘i	August 19, 2004 Thursday	5-8 p.m.	Kealakehe Intermediate School 74-5062 Onipa‘a St., Kailua-Kona
O‘ahu	August 21, 2004 Saturday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Filipino Community Center 94-428 Mokuola St., Waipahu

Focus on Federal Resources

A key part of my job as your Congressman is making sure that we in Hawai'i know about and take full advantage of the thousands of funding, program, and service opportunities available to state and local governments, businesses, community organizations and individuals from our federal government. We help guide you to grant, loan, information and other resources that might assist in addressing the challenges we face, and then support you in your efforts to obtain appropriate assistance.

Federal Grants and Other Resources

The single best source for federal assistance opportunities is the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. The Catalog describes approximately 1,500 federal grants and non-financial assistance programs administered by federal departments and agencies, together with all the pertinent information necessary to apply. The Catalog can be accessed at most public libraries or at its website at <http://www.cdfa.gov>, where you will find a very useful search engine.

Other useful websites for resource seekers include:

- Congressional Research Service (CRS) Grants Webpage and Video: <http://www.house.gov/case/grants/crs.html>
- Writing Grant Proposals: <http://www.cdfa.gov/public/cat-writing.htm>
- Federal Offices in Hawai'i: <http://www.house.gov/case/federalresources>
- Federal Government Search Page: <http://www.firstgov.gov>
- Federal Benefit Programs: <http://www.GovBenefits.gov>

Doing Business with the Feds

My focus for Hawai'i's economic vitality is on our small business community. I address national small business issues in Congress through my membership on the U.S. House Committee on Small Business and otherwise. In Hawai'i, besides assisting small businesspeople with accessing federal resources, I am especially interested in assuring that you get your fair share of federal government contracts.

I highly recommend that Hawai'i small businesses visit my website at <http://www.house.gov/case/businessopportunities>. There you will find information compiled by the CRS on how to:

- Sell your services to the federal government
- Become familiar with the federal procurement processes and terms
- Learn more about SBA and the General Services Administration (GSA)
- Understand more about Small Business Development Centers, Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, and GSA Regional Small Business Utilization Centers
- Register your business to get government contracts
- Learn more about subcontracting opportunities by identifying prime contractors
- Sell to the military and other Department of Defense operations

Federal Resources in Hawai'i

Small Business Administration: 541-2990

Minority Business Development Center: 521-6221

Small Business Development Center in Hilo: 974-7515

USDA Rural Development Honolulu Office: 541-2600 ext. 104

Economic Development Administration: 541-3391

If any of the above sources does not point you in the right direction, or if you need any assistance in identifying and pursuing federal resources, please don't hesitate to contact us.



A key part of Congressman Case's efforts is working with state and local leaders and communities to assure that Hawai'i gets its fair share of federal resources. Here Congressman Case joins State Rep. K. Mark Takai and students at the awarding of \$3.558 million in additional federal impact aid funds to Hawai'i's schools.



Small business remains the backbone of Hawai'i's and our country's economy. Congressman Case serves on the U.S. House Committee on Small Business; here he participates with colleagues in a hearing by his Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight on burdensome federal regulation.

Congressional Survey Results

Knowing what you're thinking is crucial to representing you well in Congress. One way to keep in touch is through surveys. I enclosed a survey for your use with my 2003 Congressional Report. My Congressional e-mail newsletter also gives me the opportunity to get instant feedback from you (one of the reasons why I encourage you to sign up at www.house.gov/case/email_list.html.) I deeply appreciate the thousands of responses; you have assisted me greatly in my Congressional work. I also believe it is important to share with you what you've told me. (Results are responses from early 2004 to my 2003 newsletter survey, except that "3/04" and "5/04" are from my e-mail surveys of those dates.)

FOREIGN POLICY

Generally. What are your views on our country's involvement overseas today?

- 45%: Too involved; focus more on problems at home
- 31%: Involvement about right for now
- 9%: Increase involvement/help solve more world problems
- 15%: Other/Undecided

Iraq. What are your current views on Iraq?

- 32%: We did the right thing in intervening and have to see it through (40% in 3/04; 38% in 5/04)
- 26%: It was a mistake for us to get involved but we have to see it through (27% in 3/04; 22% in 5/04)
- 24%: It was a mistake for us to get involved and we should get out asap (20% in 3/04; 32% in 5/04)
- 7%: We did the right thing in intervening but the cost is too high and we should get out asap (11% in 3/04; 6% in 5/04)
- 11%: Other/Undecided (2% undecided in 3/04 and 5/04)

Weapons of mass destruction. What are your current views on the fact that we have not located WMD in Iraq thus far? (3/04)

- 50%: Our intervention was based on our intelligence community and/or administration saying there was WMD there and we have to find out what happened
- 28%: It doesn't matter; our intervention was justified regardless
- 17%: It doesn't matter; we shouldn't have intervened to start with
- 5%: Undecided

DOMESTIC POLICY

National economy, taxes and budget. In the last two years we have seen major tax cuts, high unemployment and some increased growth, and a federal budget swing from surpluses to deficits of \$400-\$500 billion annually. What are your views?

- 28%: I oppose the tax cuts; they don't stimulate our economy and we have too many needs now
- 25%: I support some tax cuts but these were too much; we need to stimulate our economy and balance our budget in other ways
- 19%: I support the tax cuts but am concerned about balancing our national budget
- 16%: I support the tax cuts; they have stimulated our economy and we'll work out the deficits over time
- 12%: Other/Undecided



Congressman Case discusses federal issues in West Hawaii.



Community meetings can happen anywhere and anytime. Here Congressman Case discusses community issues at the canoe races on a Saturday afternoon.

Federal budget deficit. Our federal budget is running an annual deficit of around \$500 billion and our national debt has just climbed through \$7 trillion. What are your views about our deficit? (3/04)

- 71%: Very concerned
- 24%: Somewhat concerned
- 4%: Not concerned
- 1%: Undecided

Deficit reduction options. The deficit has arisen from a combination of reduced revenues and increased expenses. What are your views about what to do? (3/04)

- 65%: Balance the books through a combination of tax adjustments (lapse some cuts and make others permanent), government efficiency, and expense reductions
- 19%: Make all tax cuts permanent and balance the books by reducing expenses
- 4%: Lapse all tax cuts and maintain the current size and cost of government
- 2%: Increase taxes and grow government
- 1%: Do nothing and the economy will grow out of it
- 9%: Undecided

Education/college costs. What are your views on what our federal government should do about the escalating costs of college?

- 39%: Implement a national college tuition savings program
- 32%: Increase student loan and grant programs
- 12%: No federal action should be taken
- 9%: Control costs by law or regulation
- 8%: Other/Undecided

Medicare. What are your views on the new Medicare reform law?

- 34%: Don't know enough yet
- 29%: Oppose the law; repeal or substantially amend it
- 15%: Support the law; give it time to work
- 11%: Some parts good but needs improvement
- 11%: Other/Undecided

Focus on our Federal Budget



Congressman Case hosts the Castle High School Marching Band at our Capitol.

lower by spending current Social Security surpluses, which are supposed to be reserved for increased payments when our baby-boomers retire.

Deficits aren't free; our government (we) has to borrow to make up the gap and then pay interest on that debt. Our borrowing from countries like China had increased rapidly, and interest on our national debt is the fastest growing of all our expenses. And our total national debt (all outstanding borrowings) has climbed in just two years from about \$6 trillion to over \$7 trillion and is closing rapidly on \$8 trillion.

Why, of all our challenges, is this the most crucial? First, our government is failing its most basic obligation to manage the people's money well and provide for core needs. More directly, over time chronic deficits: (1) prevent economic growth, (2) increase interest rates, (3) increase debts to foreigners (a national security issue), (4) increase the amount and proportion of federal spending devoted just to interest payments, (5) cripple our ability to meet future obligations, and (6) fail our duty to hand off our government to our children in better shape than we received it.

How did we get ourselves into this situation? First, we did not follow proven budget discipline practices like "PAYGO," meaning any revenue reductions like tax cuts had to be offset by revenue increases or spending reductions elsewhere. Second, like any other budget gap, revenues fell (economic stagnation plus some \$2 trillion in total tax cuts) while expenses ballooned (not just Iraq/Afghanistan, which has totaled around \$200 billion to date), and the gap was covered by irresponsible borrowing.

How do we dig our way back out? First, in the big picture, I believe we must require our federal government to balance its budget as do virtually all states including Hawai'i (not to mention families and businesses.) Second, PAYGO and other budget discipline measures must be reinstated. Third, certainly economic recovery will help, but even the most wildly optimistic growth projections do not yield sufficient revenues to pay for the combined deficit of deep tax cuts and core spending increases.

Even then we'll still be left with the toughest possible choices because, as Chair Greenspan repeated, there's no free lunch. One budget study (Brookings Institute; see www.brook.edu/scholars/arivlin.html) summarized three basic approaches: (1) smaller government through massive tax cuts and spending restrictions; (2) larger government through tax and spending increases; and (3) better government through a mix of tax cuts and revenue increases, spending increases and reductions and enhanced performance.

I am committed to the better government path. But what is far more vital is that we collectively acknowledge this crisis, and make rather than avoid the tough choices indispensable to the basic solvency of our federal government.

Balancing Our Federal Budget: Our Top Priority

"The free lunch has still to be invented." Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan, May 2004

Our most critical challenge is our federal budget, where massive deficits not only damage economic health and deny adequate funding of core government functions like defense, homeland security, education, environmental protection, and aid to the needy, but also assure that we will not meet future obligations like Social Security and Medicare.

Our federal budget is no different from any family or business budget: just much bigger (about \$2 trillion/year). Revenues come in mainly from taxes (like income and FICA/Social Security) and expenses go out for all federal efforts. When revenues exceed expenses in any year, that's a surplus; when expenses exceed revenues, that's a deficit.

Just three short years ago we had surpluses. Since then, the deficit has soared toward \$500 billion/year, and is projected to continue in that range for years if not decades. To make matters worse, the deficit is being kept



Congressman Case discusses federal programs with providers of services to Kaua'i's children and youth.

Contact Us

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202-225-4987 (fax)

* * * Please note - Mail to our D.C. office is still delayed up to six weeks by inspection. Electronic transmission, mail to our district office, or faxes to our D.C. office are recommended.

Hawai'i District Office Address

5104 Prince Kuhio Federal Building
Honolulu, HI 96850
808-541-1986 (tel)
808-538-0233 (fax)

Local Numbers for Neighbor Islands

Hawai'i County: 935-3756 Island of Maui: 242-1818
Island of Lana'i: 565-7199 Island of Moloka'i: 552-0160
Kaua'i County: 245-1951

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M.C.
ECRWSS



For those who have served us and serve us today. Congressman Case with Hawai'i reservists at Schofield Barracks before their deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.



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