

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1102

March 31, 2023

The Honorable
Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable
Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the **Mānā Plains Educational Center** in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the **Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources**, located at **1151 Punchbowl St Suite 325 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**.

The funding would build a Hawaiian design-inspired educational center at the State Kawai'ele and Mānā Waterbird Sanctuary for locals and visitors. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would benefit the community by creating a hub for eco-tourism and education. There are no existing facilities to host the local community or school groups. The project will provide tourists the opportunity to view multiple endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, access wetland areas, and participate in educational programming. Furthermore, this center will expand the state's ability to host educational and conservation programs for local residents, especially school-age children, relating to the local watershed and wildlife. The project is expected the triple number of visitors to the site and local communities in the area in the first few years after completion.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

Lastly, I certify that neither I nor anyone in my immediate family have a financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress