



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GOVERNOR HOWARD DEAN ENDORSES KAI KAHELE FOR CONGRESS

[HONOLULU] – Governor Howard Dean, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, endorsed Senator Kai Kahele today in his bid for Congress:

"I strongly support Senator Kai Kahele in his run for Congress. Kai has an exemplary record of leadership as a combat veteran and lieutenant colonel in the Hawai'i Air National Guard. More importantly, as a husband and working father of three young daughters, he carries the values shared by millions of working class families across the country. He is exactly the type of person we need serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am a proud supporter of Kai and look forward to the good work he will do in Washington."

Sen. Kahele expressed his gratitude in response to Governor Dean's endorsement, "I am humbled to receive Governor Dean's support of me in my run for Congress, and am grateful for his sincere vote of confidence in my leadership abilities. If I am elected, I will work hard to make sure that Hawai'i's 2nd congressional district is truly represented every single day."

Dr. Howard Dean served as the Governor of Vermont from 1991 to 2003, was a candidate for the democratic nomination for President in 2004, and then was elected Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 2005-2009 where he implemented the DNC's fifty-state strategy. His 2004 campaign modernized how Presidential campaigns utilized online fundraising and organizing strategies at the grassroots level.

Kahele serves as Majority Floor Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Water and Land in the Hawai'i State Senate where he represents his hometown of Hilo. He is an 18-year combat veteran aviator who was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

Former Hawai'i Governors John Waihe'e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Kahele for Congress Campaign Committee. Honolulu City Council Chairman Ikaika Anderson formally endorsed Kahele's candidacy. The Kahele for Congress campaign has raised over half a million dollars since January 21, 2019.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District encompasses Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaho'olawe, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaua'i, Ni'ihau and the rural parts of O'ahu, including Waimānalo, Kailua, Kāne'ohe, the North Shore, and the Leeward coast.

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*Kai Kahele serves as a Lt. Col in the Hawai'i Air National Guard, United States Air Force. Use of his military rank, job titles, or photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Hawai'i Air National Guard, United States Air Force or the Department of Defense.*

Paid for by Kahele for Congress