



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KAI KAHELE PROMOTED TO RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL

[HONOLULU] – In a private ceremony held Saturday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, State Senator Kai Kahele was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Hawai‘i Air National Guard. Surrounded by friends and family, Kahele, who has served as a USAF pilot and commissioned officer for 18 years, issued the following statement:

“It is an honor to continue to serve my state and country in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard. I am extremely thankful for my family, my wife Maria and my daughters, who have sacrificed and supported me throughout my military career. This promotion is for them.”

The oath and assumption of rank were administered by fellow pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Steven Augugliaro, at the F-22 Missing Man Formation on the waterfront of historic Hickam Air Force Base.

Kahele, who is currently running to represent Hawaii’s 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, is a decorated combat veteran with multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan since 2005. He has flown over 108 combat sorties, logged 3075 hours of military flight time, commanded C-17 combat missions and is the recipient of the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He has previously been named both Pacific Air Forces Guard Officer of the Year and Hawai‘i Air National Guard Officer of the Year. He is assigned to the 201st Air Mobility Operations Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base.

Kahele currently serves as Majority Floor Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Water & Land in the Hawai‘i State Senate, where he represents his hometown of Hilo. Hawaii’s 2nd 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 Waimanālo, 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.