



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 13, 2020

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## **State Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele Files Nomination Papers for Congressional District 2 Seat Campaign Momentum Grows with Endorsements from Hawai‘i U.S. Senior Senator and State Senate Leadership as well as First Quarter Fundraising Results**

[HONOLULU] – State Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele today officially filed his nomination papers as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives 2nd Congressional District of Hawai‘i.

Kahele received endorsements from Hawai‘i’s senior U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, Hawai‘i State Senate President Ronald Kouchi, Hawai‘i State Senate Vice President Michelle Kidani, and former Lieutenant Governor and former Hawai‘i State Senate President Shan Tsutsui.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz had this to say, “I am proud to endorse Kai for Congressional District 2. Kai’s service to Hawai‘i as a state senator and to our country as a lieutenant colonel in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, has prepared him well for leadership in Congress. I know he will be an effective member of our congressional team, and I am committed to working with him to bring his district the resources they need to respond to the current crisis, revitalize the economy, and address ongoing issues like climate change.”

Sen. Kouchi added, “Kai is a leader who steps up to the plate. He did that when he finished the term of his father, State Senator Gil Kahele, after his unexpected death in 2016. He has continually risen to the challenge, first as the Senate Majority Whip and now as Chair of the Water and Land Committee, and the Senate Majority Floor Leader. You can always trust Kai to step up. I am confident he will represent Hawai‘i well in Washington D.C.”

Sen. Kidani said, “Senator Kahele is passionate about Hawai‘i’s keiki and public education. As a product of our public school system, from kindergarten to community college and as a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, I am confident he will advocate for students and faculty at all levels to ensure they are well equipped and have the best opportunities for a quality 21st century education and professional development.”

Former Lt. Gov. Tsutsui added, “Kai Kahele understands the Neighbor Island perspective and will work hard to address the challenges of Hawai‘i’s working families and small businesses in Congressional District 2. Kai’s candidacy provides an opportunity for the Neighbor Islands to have a voice in Congress and a seat at the table – something we’ve not had since Maui native Patsy Mink served with distinction in the U.S. House.”

(more)

Other prominent leaders who have also endorsed Kahele include former Hawai'i Governors John Waihe'e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie, who serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Kahele for Congress Campaign Committee.

**First Quarter 2020 Fundraising Results**

Donations raised in the first quarter of 2020 totalled \$124,113 – surpassing the campaign's goal for the quarter of \$100,000 and despite the temporary suspension of fundraising events as of March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. The campaign has raised \$842,681 to date. Campaign cash on hand at the end of the first quarter totaled \$497,811. A total of 552 individuals donated to the campaign in quarter one of 2020.

Kahele announced his candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 22, 2019 at the historic Mo'oheau Bandstand in downtown Hilo. 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