



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Senator, Lieutenant Colonel Kaiali'i Kahele called up for active duty COVID-19 Hawai'i response

[HONOLULU] – State Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, a lieutenant colonel with the Hawai'i Air National Guard, United States Air Force, was called today to serve on active duty in the state's response to the COVID-19 crisis. His state senatorial staff will continue to serve the Hawai'i Island community while he undertakes his mission. Kahele is also a registered candidate for the 2nd Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his campaign will continue operations during this period. Kahele formally filed his candidacy papers yesterday at the State Office of Elections in Pearl City, prior to reporting for active duty.

Senator Kahele is honored to answer the call of duty within his home state. Governors in all 50 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. have activated their Army and Air National Guard units to assist in their respective state and territorial responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. National Guard COVID-19 response missions may include the delivery of essential personnel, food, and medical supplies and equipment, as well as supporting local emergency management agencies.

Kahele is a decorated 19-year combat veteran aviator with multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2005. He has flown 108 combat sorties, logged 3,075 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 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 and Land in the Hawai'i State Senate, where he represents his hometown of Hilo. Former Hawai'i Governors John Waihe'e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Kahele for Congress Campaign Committee.

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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Use of Kai Kahele's 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