



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Human Rights Campaign endorses Kai Kahele for Congressional District 2

[HONOLULU] – State Senator Kaiiali'i Kahele received the endorsement of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in his bid to represent Hawai'i's Congressional District 2.

The Human Rights Campaign on June 3, 2020 announced its endorsement of several candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, including Kahele. "The Human Rights Campaign is proud to endorse pro-equality champions for the U.S. House of Representatives," said Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "In order to achieve real and lasting change, we must not only reelect a pro-equality majority, but build upon that majority and ensure that the People's House reflects the diversity of our nation's people. These candidates represent that opportunity and we look forward to working with them to advance equality for LGBTQ people and other marginalized communities."

Kahele said, "Like my father, the late State Senator Gil Kahele, who fought hard for legalizing same-sex marriage and saw the successful passage of the Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act in 2013, I believe all people are created equal, and discrimination of any kind must not be tolerated. Equality is engrained in the Native Hawaiian culture. Our LGBTQIA+ ancestors were fully embraced as an integral part of our communities and same-sex relationships were not only recognized but were part of the very fabric of Native Hawaiian society. While we have seen great strides toward equality for the LGBTQIA+ community in recent years, there is still much work to be done. I will strongly support the Equality Act as a member of the U.S. Congress."

Other groups that have endorsed Kahele include: Daily Kos, Serve America, New Politics, Emgage PAC, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Rising & Empowering PAC, Progressive Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, VoteVets, and Demand Universal Healthcare.

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

