



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former U.S. President Obama Endorses Kai Kahele for Congress District 2

[HONOLULU] – Former U.S. President Barack Obama today announced his endorsement of State Senator Kaiiali'i Kahele, the Democratic nominee for Hawai'i's Second Congressional District. Kahele is one of 29 U.S. House nominees endorsed by the former Hawai'i native in his second wave of 2020 endorsements.

Obama said in his announcement, which appeared on Twitter and Facebook shortly after 3:00 am HST, "I'm proud to endorse these outstanding Democratic candidates who will work to get the virus under control, rebuild the economy and the middle class, and protect Americans' health care and preexisting conditions protections from Republican assault. They're dedicated to shoring up and strengthening our democracy, a project that's going to take time and require all of us — but it begins by electing Democrats right now. So give these candidates your vote — and vote early if you can, either by mail or in person."

Upon receiving news of the endorsement, Kahele exclaimed, "It's such an honor, and I'm humbled to be endorsed by an island son of Hawai'i. This means so much to me. I'm excited and hope to bring the values of aloha and hard work to the United States Congress, just like President Obama did to the White House. I'm fired up and ready to go."

Kahele shared a brief video today on his Twitter, Facebook and Instagram platforms. It will also be available on his campaign website, www.kaikahele.com.

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

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Other Endorsements

Other individuals who have endorsed Kahele include: Hawai'i Senior U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, Hawai'i U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, Hawai'i U.S. Congressman Ed Case, Fmr. Hawai'i Gov. John Waihe'e, Fmr. Hawai'i Gov. Ben Cayetano, Fmr. Hawai'i Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawai'i State Sen. Pres. Ronald Kouchi, Hawai'i State Sen. VP Michelle Kidani, Fmr. Lt. Gov. & Fmr. HI State Sen. Pres. Shan Tsutsui, Ikaika Anderson, Fmr. Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Fmr. Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA 6th District), U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Congressman Brad Sherman, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Mark Pocan, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Congressman Mark Takano, Congressman Jason Crow, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, Congressman Max Rose, Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, Sen. Stanley Chang, Sen. Kurt Fevella, Sen. Dru Kanuha, Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Sen. Gil Riviere, Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Rep. Stacelynn Eli, Rep. Cedric Gates, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Rep. Chris Todd, Rep. Tina Wildberger, Hawai'i County Councilmember Sue Lee Loy, CMSgt. Robert Lee (Ret.) Hawai'i National Guard, Hon. Steven Levinson, Ret. Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice, Fmr. Rep. Kaniela Ing, Dr. Amy Agbayani, Civil Rights Activist, Dr. Patricia Nekoba, Educator, Toni Lee, Native Hawaiian Community Leader, Debbie Nakanelua-Richards, Native Hawaiian Community Leader, Sivan Leoni, Fmr. UH Men's Volleyball Teammate, and Rick Tune, Fmr. UH Men's Volleyball Teammate.

Organizations that have endorsed Kahele include: Tri-Caucus PAC (ASPIRE PAC, BOLD PAC, Congressional Black Caucus PAC); Daily Kos; Serve America; New Politics; Emgage PAC; Progressive Caucus; Planned Parenthood Action Fund; VoteVets; Demand Universal Healthcare; Human Rights Campaign; Friends of Intelligent Democracy; People for the American Way; Progressive Change Campaign Committee; League of Conservation Voters Action Fund; Brady PAC; Realtors® PAC; Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii; Future Forum PAC; Humane Society Legislative Fund; Voter Protection Project; DMFI PAC; Giffords PAC; Americans for Democratic Action; and Asian American Action Fund.

Unions that have endorsed Kahele include: ILWU, Local 142; HGEA AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO; Iron Workers, Local 625; Hawaii Masons Union, Local 1; Hawaiian Airlines Master Executive Council of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA); Association of Flight Attendants-CWA; United Food & Commercial Workers Local 480; Plumbers & Fitters UA Local 675; Spirit Airlines Pilots ALPA MEC; Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1186; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463; Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council; United Public Workers/AFSCME; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades - District Council 50; International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers; BAC Local 1 Hawaii; Hawaii State Teachers Association; National Education Association; Hawaii Island Contractors' Association PAC; Unite Here Local 5; International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers Legislative Education Action Program PAC; American Federation of Government Employees; Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters Local 745; National Air Traffic Controllers Association; and National Nurses United.

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'ohē, the North Shore, and the Leeward coast.

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