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FORMER KAUA‘I MAYOR BERNARD CARVALHO ENDORSES KAI KAHELE FOR CONGRESS

HONOLULU, HI – Kai Kahele earned the endorsement of former Kaua‘i Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho Jr. in his campaign to represent Hawai‘i’s 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Carvalho issued the following statement today:

"From his service to our country as a lieutenant colonel in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard, through his time as a state senator for Hilo, I have great confidence in both his dedication to our island communities and his leadership capacity...

We will be facing serious challenges in the years ahead. From affordable housing to climate resilience, there are many community issues that will need federal support and funding. We need someone who will help bring in U.S. Housing and Urban Development funding so we can build more homes for our kūpuna and young families. We need someone who will help us secure Federal Highways money and other funding to make our communities more resilient to sea-level rise and severe storm events. We need someone who can help direct U.S. Department of Agriculture funding to our local farmers and food-producing lands."

Carvalho served for 10 years as the Mayor of Kaua‘i County from 2008-2018. He was first elected in 2008 to fill the remaining two years of Mayor Bryan Baptiste’s unexpired term and then was elected to two full four-year terms in 2010 and 2014.

"I am grateful for Mayor Carvalho’s endorsement of my campaign for a seat in the United States Congress," Kahele said. "He is an experienced leader whose reach extends beyond Kaua‘i. Mayor Carvalho is respected for his dedication and service throughout our great State of Hawai‘i. I look forward to working with him in the coming months as we continue to grow our grassroots campaign in every community and across every island in the state."

Kahele 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 is an 18-year combat veteran aviator who was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard.

Former Hawai‘i Governors John Waihe‘e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Kahele for Congress Campaign Committee, which raised over \$600,000 since launching in January 2019.

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 lieutenant colonel 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.