



Hawai‘i Island Senator Kai Kahele Running To Represent Hawaii’s 2nd Congressional District

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For Immediate Release:

Hilo, HI – State Senator Kai Kahele today announced he is running for the 2nd Congressional seat in the 2020 election.

Kahele is a combat pilot, a Major in the Hawaii Air National Guard, a commercial pilot for Hawaiian Airlines and a State Senator representing Hilo.

Surrounded by supporters, friends and family that included his wife and daughters, Kahele announced his candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the historic Mo‘oheau Bandstand in downtown Hilo. It’s where Hawaii’s Democratic Party has rallied every election the past 64 years.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired generations with the simple idea that one person can make a difference, one person can change the world,” Kahele said. “Dr. King once asked ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?’”

He also said it was on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, three years ago, that he found his father, Senator Gil Kahele, collapsed at home. The beloved figure in Hawaii’s Democratic Party died nine days later without ever leaving the hospital.

Through his grief, Kahele felt a call to public service and a desire to follow in his father’s footsteps.

“Our family needed leadership. Our community needed leadership. There was work left undone and a legacy to carry on inspired by his dream. The dream of this gentle Hawaiian man from Miloil‘i, to build a better Hawai‘i for all of us,” Kahele said.

Kahele said during his time serving in the State Senate, he has met with a host of residents. Their many concerns include the future for Hawai‘i’s children.

“When I think of them, I think of my own daughters and your children and the Hawai‘i of the future they will grow up in,” Kahele said. “And like every parent, we all want more for our children than we had for ourselves. We want the brightest future for them. We want them to have a secure job sustained by a strong and thriving economy. We want them to grow up in a safe community, and a clean environment. We want them to be able to attend outstanding public schools and have access to quality healthcare when they need it. We want them to be able to walk in our ohia forests, swim in our oceans rich with marine life and see the Hawai‘i that we have seen through our eyes.”

But in order to achieve this, Kahele said Hawai‘i needs teamwork, focus and dedicated leadership.

“We need passion and compassion. We need courage and collaboration. We need commitment and humility. We need elected leaders working together, leaders who put the common interests of Hawaii’s people ahead of their own.”

In his speech announcing his candidacy, Kahele acknowledged some will ask, why now?

“In Dr. King’s now famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech he talked about what he called, ‘The Fierce Urgency of Now.’ That there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency, the time is now for vigorous and positive action. I am also reminded of President Obama who said, ‘Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.’”

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Link to website, bio, speech etc.

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