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Hawaiian Airlines Pilots MEC-ALPA and Association of Flight Attendants-CWA endorse Kai Kahele for Congressional District 2

[HONOLULU] – State Senator Kaiiali'i Kahele today received endorsements from two unions in his bid to represent Hawai'i's Congressional District 2: Hawaiian Airlines Master Executive Council (HAL MEC) of the Air Line Pilots Association and International (ALPA), and the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.

Hawaiian Airlines MEC-ALPA, which represents 871 Hawaiian Airlines pilots, said this about Kahele, who has been an ALPA member for more than 10 years, "It is critical to have representatives like Kai Kahele in Congress who have pledged to represent the pilot profession and champion its causes, including installing secondary cockpit barriers, restricting flag of convenience models, and enacting safety and security for all-cargo operations, among other issues. Senator Kahele's background and commitment to these issues is especially critical given the severe challenges that COVID-19 presents to the state of Hawai'i."

Hawaiian Airlines MEC is part of ALPA, which represents and advocates for more than 63,000 pilots at 35 U.S. and Canadian airlines, making it the world's largest airline pilot union.

Kahele's wife, Maria, is an Association of Flight Attendants-CWA member at Hawaiian Airlines, and his mother, Linda, is a retired United Airlines stewardess.

Sara Nelson, international president of Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, representing nearly 50,000 Flight Attendants at 19 airlines including Hawaiian Airlines and United Airlines, said, "Kai Kahele knows the power of solidarity and the important role the government plays in protecting the American worker. As a union pilot and husband of a 20-year AFA-CWA member, Kai knows the struggles working people face and the power we can build when we stand together to fight for our rights on the job and in our democracy. Our union is proud to endorse a proven fighter. We need Kai Kahele in Congress to give working people a fair shot. Hawaii deserves a representative who remembers daily where he comes from and who he's fighting for."

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Other unions that have endorsed Kahele include: ILWU, Local 142; HGEA AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO; Iron Workers, Local 625; and Hawaii Masons Union, Local 1.

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