



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **State Senator, Lieutenant Colonel Kaiali'i Kahele wins Democratic nomination for Hawai'i's Congressional District 2**

[HONOLULU] – Today, after the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections reported the first printout of results for the Hawai'i 2020 Primary Election, the Associated Press called the race for Kaiali'i Kahele as the Democratic nominee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the Democratic nomination for Congressional District 2," said Kahele from his home in Hilo surrounded by family and a few close friends. "I want to thank all of the voters, supporters, donors and volunteers, especially for the period while I was serving on active duty with the Hawai'i Air National Guard for the state's COVID-19 response. I know that the health and economic impacts of this pandemic are far from over. I've seen firsthand the struggles of families and small businesses across our state. At the same time, I've witnessed the courage, dedication and sacrifice of first responders, healthcare professionals, teachers and parents, and everyday folks who have stepped up incredibly during this difficult time. If I am elected to Congress, I will diligently work with our Congressional Delegates and leaders to address the unprecedented challenges our communities face and bring Hawai'i the resources we need to recover. We will get through this – together."

Kahele serves as a lieutenant colonel with the Hawai'i Air National Guard, United States Air Force. He volunteered for active duty in the state's response to the COVID-19 crisis on April 14, 2020. His mission ended on August 7, 2020, the day before the Primary Election. While on active duty, his state senatorial staff continued to serve the Hawai'i Island community, and Team Kahele continued campaign operations.

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. Former Hawai'i Governors John Waihe'e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Kahele for Congress Campaign Committee.

Hawaii's 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 Waimanālo, Kailua, Kāne'ohe, the North Shore, and the Leeward coast.

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Use of Kai Kahele's 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