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## **State Senator Kaiali'i Kahele Receives Endorsement from VoteVets in His Bid for Congressional District 2 Seat**

[HONOLULU] – Today, State Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, a decorated 19-year combat veteran running to represent Hawai'i's Congressional District 2, received the endorsement of VoteVets PAC, the largest progressive group of veterans in America.

"Now more than ever, we need people in Congress who combine leadership, experience, smarts and a commitment of service to others and there is no better example of this than Kai Kahele," said Jon Soltz, Iraq War veteran and Chairman of VoteVets. "Kai understands the critical needs of our veterans, including access to healthcare and mental health services, and will be a champion for veterans and the people of Hawaii in Congress. Kai has answered the call to serve time and time again, and we are proud to endorse him as once again he is stepping up to serve this nation."

Kahele, who is a lieutenant colonel in the Hawai'i Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, is currently serving on state active duty for Hawai'i's COVID-19 response. As a combat veteran aviator, he served on multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2005. He has flown 108 combat sorties, logged 3,075 hours of military flight time, commanded C-17 combat missions and is the recipient of the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He has previously been named Pacific Air Forces Guard Officer of the Year and Hawai'i Air National Guard Officer of the Year.

Kahele announced his candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 22, 2019 at the historic Mo'ohau Bandstand in downtown Hilo. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**About VoteVets:** Founded in 2006, the mission of VoteVets.org Political Action Committee is to elect veterans to public office, and hold public officials accountable for their words and actions that impact America's 21st century troops and veterans. Though VoteVets.org PAC is non-partisan, candidates it backs must support VoteVets.org's core mission and beliefs.

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*Kai Kahele serves as a Lt. Col. in the Hawai'i Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force. Use of his military rank, job titles, or photos in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Hawai'i Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force or the Dept. of Defense.*

Paid for by Kahele for Congress