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State Senator Kaiali'i Kahele Wins Hawai'i's Second Congressional District Race

[HONOLULU] – Today, after the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections reported the first printout of results for the Hawai'i 2020 General Election, the Associated Press announced State Senator Kaiali'i Kahele as the winner of Hawai'i's Second Congressional District race. Kahele is the second Native Hawaiian since statehood to be elected to represent Hawai'i in Congress. He will also be the first member of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation who resides on a neighbor island at the time of being elected to Congress.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be elected to serve Hawai'i's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives," said Kahele from his campaign headquarters in Hilo, surrounded by family and staff. "I will work hard to represent the people of Hawai'i in Washington and honor the trust and confidence they have placed in me. This has been an incredible journey that I will always remember. I want to thank my wife, Maria, and our daughters for their love, support and sacrifice throughout this campaign. I also want to mahalo Team Kahele and all of the voters, supporters, donors and volunteers, whose unwavering support made this victory possible. This is a pivotal time for Hawai'i and our nation. Many families and businesses are struggling to survive amid the coronavirus pandemic. From day one, I will work with our Congressional Delegates and leaders in Washington to bring Hawai'i the necessary resources we need to recover. Though the challenges are great, we will get through this by working together. I truly believe a'ohē hana nui ke alu'ia (no work is too big when shared by all). I mua, Hawai'i!"

Kahele will be recruiting individuals to serve in key positions on his Congressional staff in Washington D.C. and in his District Office. Interested persons can apply via the website: www.kaikahele.com. Kahele departs for Washington this weekend for orientation with other newly elected freshman members of Congress as they prepare for the 117th Congress set to convene on January 4, 2021.

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 also serves as a lieutenant colonel with the Hawai'i Air National Guard, United States Air Force. During the campaign, he volunteered for active duty in the state's response to the COVID-19 crisis from April 14 to August 7, 2020.

Kahele received endorsements from many prominent leaders, including former U.S. President Barack Obama, former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, U.S. Congressman Ed Case, and Campaign Honorary Co-Chairs and former Hawai'i Governors John Waihe'e, Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie. Kahele also received the endorsements of every public union in Hawai'i, as well as numerous local and national organizations.

Hawai'i'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 Leeward coast.

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

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