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CONGRESSMAN-ELECT KAHELE HONORED TO NOMINATE NANCY PELOSI TO BE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE FOR THE 117th CONGRESS

[WASHINGTON D.C.] – Today, Congressman-elect Kai Kahele was one of two newly elected members to second the nomination of current House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to remain Speaker of the House in the 117th Congress. The nomination was brought forward by Congresswoman Kathy Castor (FL-14) and seconded by Congressman-elect Kahele (HI-02) and five other current and newly elected members of Congress. The other members included: Congresswoman Angie Craig (MN-02), Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16), Congresswoman-elect Nikema Williams (GA-05), Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-15), and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-09). The other newly elected member was Nikema Williams of Georgia. Nancy Pelosi was unanimously elected as the Democratic nominee for Speaker of the House. The U.S. House of Representatives will vote for the Speaker of the House when the 117th Congress convenes in early January 2021.

“Nancy Pelosi, like the ‘a‘ali‘i, is that battle tested leader who can navigate the House through the challenging storms ahead and lead the 117th Congress with an unwavering sense of resolve,” said Kahele in his remarks to second Speaker Pelosi’s nomination. “Nancy Pelosi is truly an ‘a‘ali‘i that no gale will topple, a steadfast leader and I am proud to second her nomination for Speaker of the 117th Congress.”

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, “Congressman-elect Kai Kahele is an American patriot, who has already enriched our Democratic House Majority with his strong voice and vision for unity, healing and progress for every community in our country. It was my honor to ask Congressman-elect Kahele to speak on behalf of my nomination to be re-elected Speaker of the House, and it was the privilege of the entire Caucus to witness him bring the values and strength of Hawai‘i to the Congress.”

In his full nomination remarks (see page two), Congressman-elect Kahele likened Speaker Pelosi to the ‘a‘ali‘i (plural aaliis), a metaphor used throughout Hawai‘i for those who are resilient and steadfast. He referenced the Hawaiian proverb or ‘Ōlelo No‘eau, *He ‘a‘ali‘i kū makani, ‘a‘ohe makani nāna e kūla‘i*, the wind resisting ‘a‘ali‘i, no gale can topple it over.

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 immediately via the website: www.kaikahele.com.

Kahele served 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 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.

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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.

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 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

Nomination Transcript

Mahalo Mr. Chair,

I rise to second the motion to nominate Nancy Pelosi for Speaker of the House.

In Hawai'i we have a traditional Hawaiian proverb or 'ōlelo no'eau that refers to the 'a'ali'i, or native shrub that grows low to the ground and can withstand the harshest of conditions, from torrential wind and rain to seasons of severe drought.

The proverb says:

He 'a'ali'i kū makani, 'a'ohe makani nāna e kūla'i.

The wind resisting 'a'ali'i, no gale can topple it over.

The 'a'ali'i has long been a metaphor throughout Hawai'i for those who are resilient and steadfast not only because they survive harsh conditions, but truly thrive and blossom because of them. And in fact, the 'a'ali'i blossoms that survive such conditions are used to make some of our most beautiful lei and adornments.

Nancy Pelosi, like the 'a'ali'i is that battle tested leader who can navigate the House through the challenging storms ahead and lead the 117th Congress with an unwavering sense of resolve.

She exemplifies leadership with aloha and so speaking on behalf of my three daughters:

He 'a'ali'i kū makani ka Lunamaka'ainana o Pelosi, 'a'ohe makani nāna e kūla'i.

Nancy Pelosi is truly an 'a'ali'i that no gale will topple, a steadfast leader and I am proud to second her nomination for Speaker of the 117th Congress.

Mahalo and I yield back.

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