

ELECTION

2024

What's at stake in the Primary Election

By JOHN BURNETT
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

The Primary Election is on Saturday, Aug. 10, with a crowded mayoral race garnering the most interest among Hawaii County voters.

Mayor Mitch Roth, the incumbent, is seeking a second term. Roth, the former Hawaii County prosecutor, and Puna businessman and musician Ikaika Marzo both received more votes in the 2020 primary than the incumbent mayor, Harry Kim, knocking him out of the race. Roth cruised to victory over Marzo in a General Election runoff vote, with 56.9% of the valid ballots cast.

There are six primary challengers in the nonpartisan race seeking to unseat Roth and become the county's chief executive. The best known among those is Kim Alameda, former CEO of Bay Clinic Health Center.

Alameda, who has a doctorate in counseling psychology, served as the executive of the county Office of Aging under Kim and the late Mayor Billy Kenoi.

Alameda, who started his campaign for mayor well over a year ago, has received the endorsements of the two largest public workers unions, Hawaii Government

Employees Association and United Public Workers. Both unions sought hazard pay for working during the pandemic, which Roth opposed on fiscal grounds. Arbitration is ongoing over hazard pay.

Roth has received endorsements from the Laborers International Union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local

142, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, and Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 675.

Other mayoral hopefuls include Breeani Kobayashi, general manager of SCP Hilo Hotel and co-owner of Keaukaha General Store, and Seaula "Jr." Tupa'i, a pastor who ran for lieutenant governor as a Republican in 2022 and lost.

Kobayashi, president of the nonprofit Hawaii Rise Foundation and chairwoman of Hawaii Island United Way, has received Kim's endorsement.

Voting will be done primarily by mail. Registered voters should receive their ballots for the 2024 primary by Tuesday, July 23, and for the general by Friday, Oct. 18.

Voters who prefer to cast their ballot in person can do so at a voter service center. Voter service

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Sustainable Leadership.



3% decrease in poverty on Hawai'i Island, representing a strong economy with many opportunities for the workforce of the future.



3,884 new single family residential building permits issued in our first 3 years to house families and support the construction industry.



\$247 million in Capital Improvement Funding allocated to improve crumbling infrastructure & enhance community facilities.



11 new ambulances to replace an aging fleet and ensure safe and reliable emergency medical services for our residents.



8,100 units added to the affordable housing pipeline to ensure quality homes for our local working-class families.



\$40 million in revenue for the local economy through a revitalized film industry.



Over \$24 million in emergency rental assistance to 2,731 local families allowing them to remain here in Hawai'i - their home.



Over \$10 million budgeted to maintain, enhance, and preserve our Parks for future generations.



28% decrease in homelessness on Hawai'i Island due to a \$18 million+ investment in our service providers and programs.



Over 70 miles paved since 2022 to enhance safety on our roadways and create a better quality of life for our residents.

"Together, we're building a sustainable Hawai'i Island where our keiki will be able to live and thrive for generations."

Mayor Mitch Roth



VOTE FOR AARON TOLENTINO

★ COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 ★

Aaron Tolentino, a Big Island native, forged his leadership and responsibility skills early in life, raised by his widowed mother Virginia alongside younger brother Aric. A graduate of Hilo High School, Aaron's journey led him to a distinguished career in the United States Navy, marked by service in Iraq and mentoring the next generation of Hawaiian sailors, including his three sons Kane, Kahi and Kanu.

Post-retirement, Aaron transitioned seamlessly into a role as a Supervisor with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Here, he oversees the provision of Low-Income Public Housing, contributing to community well-being. A natural leader, Aaron remains dedicated to public service, driven by a passion to make a positive impact. With a robust background in both military and civilian roles, he stands ready to continue his commitment to serving others.



Paid for by Friends of Aaron Tolentino, 17-180 Palaai St Keaau, HI 96749

service compassion courage



tanya yamanaka AYNESSAZIAN

State House Dist. 2

It's an honor and a pleasure to devote time and energy to the betterment of others.

Tanya

tanya4Hawaii.com

PAID FOR BY TANYA4HAWAII PO BOX 1831 HILO, HI 96721



County Council District 1

Brittany Anderson

Farmer | Small Business Owner | Trusted Advocate



My daughter is seventh-generation kama'āina on the Hamakua Coast, but the way the county is headed, she may be the last.

I want to help make District 1 a thriving community so our children and their children's children can see a future here.

If you want life to be better in District 1, I have the experience and passion to make a positive impact on the island for my daughter, your children, and future generations.

VOTE Anderson For County Council District 1

Hamakua Coast: from Puueo to Pu'u Nani Dr in Waimea

Learn more at vote4Anderson.org

Paid for by Brittany Anderson Committee to Elect PO Box 372 Honomu HI 96728

ELECTION

Hawaii election deadlines

JULY 23

Voters receive their Primary Election mail ballot packet at least 18 days before the election.

JULY 29

Voter service centers open. Services include accessible in person voting and same day registration.

JULY 31

Deadline for voters to submit a paper Voter Registration Application for the Primary Election to the County Elections Division. Paper applications must be postmarked to the County Elections Division by this date. After this date, applicants may continue to register for the Primary Election using the Online Voter Registration System or at a voter service center.

AUGUST 3

Deadline for registered voters who are away from their Hawaii residence to submit an Absentee Application to have their ballot mailed to an alternate mailing address for the Primary Election. Applications must be received by the County Elections Division by this date.



AUGUST 10 — PRIMARY ELECTION

Voted ballots must be received by 7 p.m. by the County Elections Division. Additionally, voter service centers and places of deposit close.

OCTOBER 18

Voters receive their General Election mail ballot packet at least 18 days before the election. Places of deposit may open as early as the mailing of ballots, as determined by the County Elections Division.

OCTOBER 22

Voter service centers open. Services include accessible in person voting and same day registration.

OCTOBER 28

Deadline for voters to submit a paper Voter Registration Application for the General Election to the County Elections Division. Paper applications must be postmarked to the County Elections Division by this date. After this date, applicants may continue to register for the General Election using the Online Voter Registration System or at a voter service center.

OCTOBER 29

Deadline for registered voters who are away from their Hawaii residence to submit an Absentee Application to have their ballot mailed to an alternate mailing address for the General Election. Applications must be received by the County Elections Division by this date.



NOVEMBER 5 — GENERAL ELECTION

Voted ballots must be received by 7 p.m. by the County Elections Division. Additionally, voter service centers and places of deposit close.



ELECTION

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centers are operated by the Hawaii County Elections Division and will be open 10 business days prior to the election, offering accessible voting and same-day voter registration.

“The state ran tests on our voting machines this past weekend on Saturday, and the state-wide observers’ testing will be on July 27,” said Cori Saiki, the county’s election programs administrator.

For the Primary Election, voter registration centers will be open between July 29 and Aug. 10, excluding Sundays.

For the General Election, voter registration centers will be open between Oct. 22 and Nov. 5, excluding Sundays.

Voter service centers will be at Aupuni Center conference room in Hilo and at the West Hawaii Civic Center in Kailua-Kona.

For voters who need to register, the paper voter registration applications must be submitted to Hawaii County Elections Division by Wednesday, July 31, for the primary. Voters can register online at any time at Hawaii’s Office of Elections website or in-person at a voter service center and can do so up to election day.

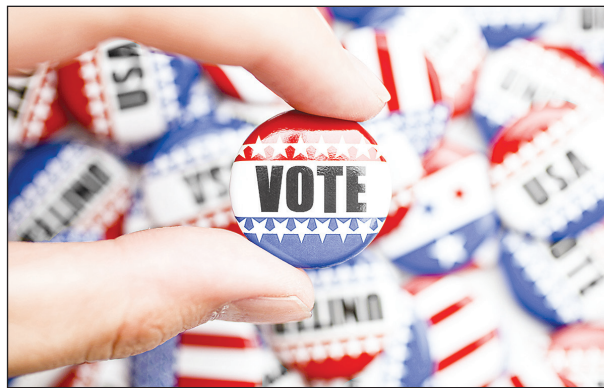
For those needing an absentee ballot, the deadline to request that a ballot be sent to an alternate address is Saturday, Aug. 3, for the primary and Tuesday, Oct. 29, for the general.

Completed ballots must be received by the Hawaii County Elections Divisions by 7 p.m. on election day to be counted.

Mail voters are encouraged to be mindful of delivery times by the U.S. Postal Service. There also will be drop boxes for mail ballots. Places and times for those boxes will be announced closer to the election.

Voters must select a party ballot for the Primary Election. Certified parties are: Democratic, Republican, Green, Libertarian, Nonpartisan, We the People, No Labels, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Solidarity Party.

Big Island voter turnout for the Primary



Election in 2022 was 53,369, 41% of the 129,765 registered voters in the state. Of those ballots, 51,689 were cast by mail. That’s almost 97% of the valid votes in the county.

Other primary races to watch include:

- State Senate District 1, where incumbent Lorraine Rodero Inouye faces a return challenge from fellow Democrat Laura Acasio. It’s a winner-take-all as there are no candidates from other parties. Inouye ousted Acasio — who had been appointed to the seat abandoned by Kai Kahele for a successful run for U.S. Congress — in the 2022 primary, after reapportionment moved Inouye’s Paukaa home from District 4, which she represented as a senator, to District 1.

- State House District 2, where Sue Lee Loy, a County Council member who was term-limited out of her seat, will face Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian, a longtime local nonprofit executive. Both are Democrats who moved into the district recently, and the primary winner will take the seat left open when longtime Democrat Rep. Richard Onishi — who has endorsed Lee Loy — decided not to run for reelection.

- Hawaii County Council District 1, where incumbent Heather Kimball, the council chairwoman, faces two challengers, including two-division former UFC champion B.J. Penn — who ran for governor as a Republican in 2022, and came in second in a 10-candidate primary to former Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona — and Honomu farmer Brittany Anderson.

- Hawaii County Council District 3, where four challengers — Kelton Chang, Dennis (Fresh) Onishi, Kaloa Robinson and Leomana Turalde — vie

for the seat held by Lee Loy. Onishi, a former councilman, has the best name recognition. Chang has served as Hawaii County Fair Foundation President. Robinson is a county housing specialist, and Turalde is an entrepreneur.

- Hawaii County Council District 5, where the incumbent Matt Kaneali’i-Kleinfelder faces a rematch with Ikaika Rodenhurst, who Kaneali’i-Kleinfelder defeated for the seat in 2020 by 307 votes. Rodenhurst, an engineer, was appointed county Public Works director by Roth in 2021, then ousted from the position a year-and-a-half later. There also are three other challengers in this crowded race — Aaron Tolentino, a retired Navy man and public housing official, Haylie L. Taylor, and Sysha-Marie Torres.

- Hawaii County Council District 9 has two strong challengers to incumbent Cindy Evans, James Hustace and Michael Konowicz. Hustace has served four years as president of the Waimea Community Association and was awarded the 2020 Torch of Light for openness by the Big Island Press Club. Konowicz, also known as Michael Phillips, is a broadcast meteorologist, a Waikoloa Village Association board member, former chairman of the Hawaii County Cost of Government Commission, and former president of the Big Island Press Club.

In nonpartisan races and any primary race with candidates in only one party, a total of 50% plus one vote will win the seat outright. If no one in such a race garners that many votes, the top two vote recipients will face each other in a General Election runoff.

Email John Burnett at jburnett@hawaiitribune-herald.com.

Re-Elect Jenn Kagiwada

Hawai'i County Council-Hilo (D2)



Please vote for me by August 10th and I will keep working for Hilo by:

- Reducing homelessness and increasing housing for residents
- Investing in our roads, wastewater, parks and county buildings
- Supporting emerging industries and local jobs
- Developing solutions for a healthier environment
- Being your advocate and keeping you informed

Please visit jennkagiwada.com for more information

Paid for by Friends of Jenn Kagiwada PO Box 95 Hilo HI 96721



BJ PENN - COUNCIL DISTRICT 1



VOTE BJ PENN

A CANDIDATE FOR THE PEOPLE
I WORK FOR YOU



- Food security
- Fight taxes
- Keep our Keiki in Hawaii

WHY AM I A CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 1?

Growing up in Hilo was very challenging. I attended Haili Christian School from the 1st grade, promoted to 2nd grade while in 1st grade, attended Hilo High School, graduated at the age of 16, and was like most teenagers unaware of my future. The rest is history for me to become a UFC World Champion in two different weight classes, and now inducted into the UFS Hall of Fame.

As a family business in Hilo, we have been involved in several projects such as the Waiakea Center with anchor tenant Walmart, and now the new UFC/BJPenn gym with about 3,500 members.

As the Founder of the Penn Hawaii Youth Foundation, my team has trained hundreds of at-risk youth in Hawaii the martial arts way since 2012 to instill values of confidence, discipline, humility and spirit.

The Big Island is my home and I am passionate about standing up for what’s right, protecting your tax dollars, sustainable food security, and keeping our keiki in Hawaii. I have made a commitment to work for you.



Penn family at Christmas



BJ PENN
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

BJ PENN - A CANDIDATE FOR THE PEOPLE

Paid for by Friends of BJ Penn for Council District #1, 184 Puueo Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Mahalo for Your Support!

- HGEA
- UPW
- SHOPO
- Hawai'i Firefighters Association
- Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Realtors Association
- Patsy T. Mink PAC
- General Contractors Association of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Operating Engineers
- Hawai'i State AFL-CIO
- Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters
- Hawai'i Laborers' Union
- ILWU
- Plumbers and Fitters
- Hawai'i State Teachers' Association
- Hawai'i Nurses Association

“ I am thankful for the many diverse organizations that have placed their trust in me, and pledge to continue supporting programs that make our community safer, healthier and more resilient. ”

Vote
Lorraine
RODERO INOUE
State Senator (D) – District 1
Hilo to Pepe'ekeo



Leadership. Experience. Trust.

ELECTION

Eligible candidates in the 2024 Primary Election

FEDERAL

U.S. Senator (statewide)

Incumbent: Mazie K. Hirono, Democrat
Challengers: Melba Amaral, Republican; Shelby (Pikachu) Billionaire, We the People; Ron Curtis, Democrat; Paul Dolan, Republican; John (Raghu) Giuffre, Nonpartisan; Adriel C. Lam, Republican; Clyde McClain (Mac) Lewman, Democrat; Bob McDermott, Republican; Emma Jane Avila Pohlman, Green; Arturo P. Reyes, Republican; Emmanuel Tipton, Republican

STATE

U.S. Representative, District 2 (Rural Oahu and Neighbor Islands)

Incumbent: Jill N. Tokuda, Democrat
Challengers: Steve Bond, Republican; Randall Kelly Meyer, Nonpartisan; Aaron Toman, Libertarian

State Senator, District 1 (Hilo, Paukaa, Papaikou and Pepeekeo)

Incumbent: Lorraine Rodero Inouye, Democrat
Challenger: Laura Acasio, Democrat

State Senator, District 3 (Kona, Ka'u and Volcano)

Incumbent: Dru Mamo Kanuha, Democrat
Challenger: Kurt "Sulli" Sullivan, Republican

State Senator, District 4 (North Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa and North Kona)

Incumbent: Herbert (Tim) Richards, Democrat
Challenger: Christine Danzilo Colletta, Republican

State Representative, District 1 (Hamakua, portion of Hilo and Kaumana)

Unchallenged incumbent Rep. Mark Nakashima, a Democrat, died in office July 11 after filing papers to run for re-election, although his name will remain on the ballot. Nakashima's successor, a Democrat from District 1, will be appointed by Gov. Josh Green.

State Representative, District 2 (Hilo)

Incumbent: none
Challengers: Susan (Sue) Lee Loy, Democrat; and Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian, Democrat

State Representative, District 3 (Portion of Hilo, Keaukaha, Orchidland, Ainaloa, Hawaiian Acres, Fern Acres, portions of Kurtistown and Keaau)

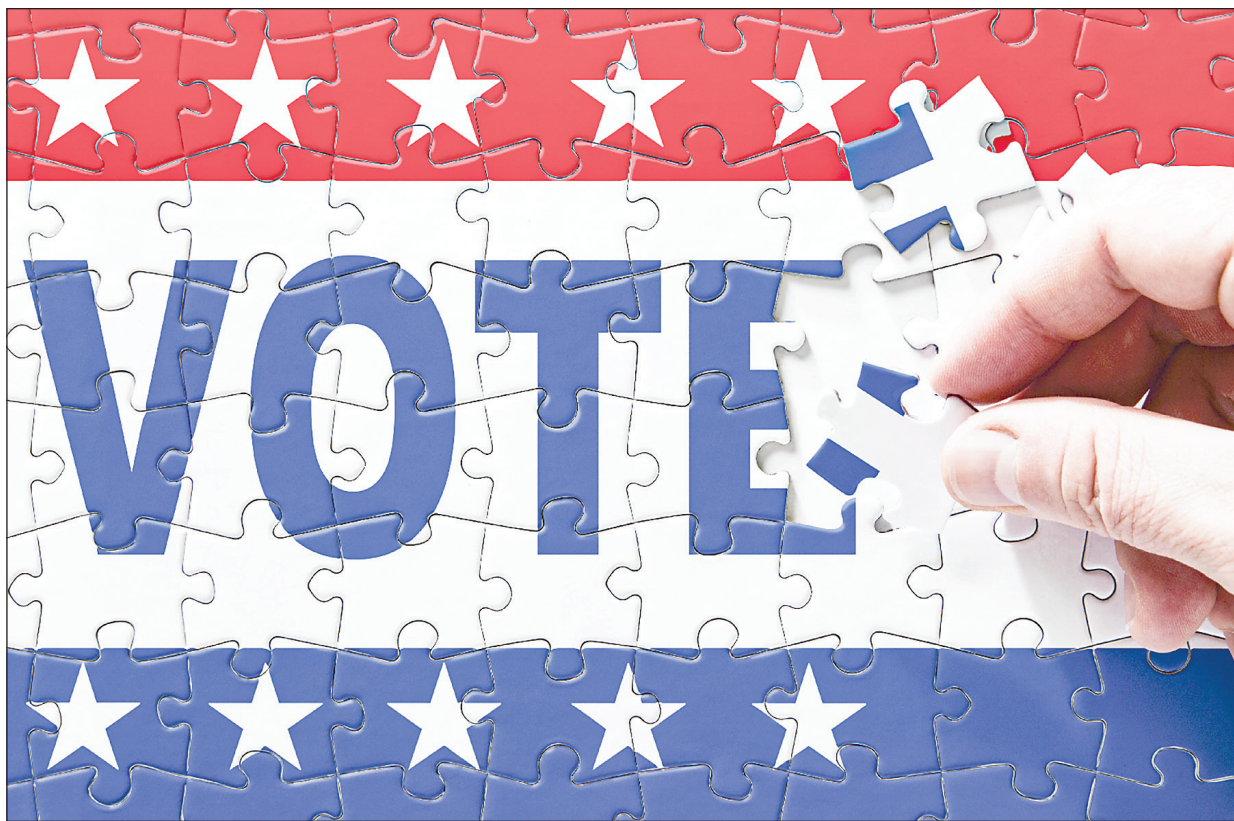
Incumbent: Chris Todd, Democrat
Challengers: Kiana (Keawekane) Kanahele, Democrat; Austin D. (Shiloh) Martin, Libertarian; Kanoa Wilson, Republican

State Representative, District 4 (Black Sands Beach Subdivision, Hawaiian Paradise Park, Hawaiian Beaches, Kalapana, Koa'e, Leilani Estates, Nanawale Estates, Pahoia, Pohoiki and Seaview Estates)

Incumbent: Greggor Ilagan, Democrat
Challenger: Keikilani Ho, Republican

State Representative, District 5 (Portions of Keaau and Kurtistown, Mountain View, Glenwood, Fern Forest, Volcano, Pahala, Punaluu, Naalehu, Waiohinu, Hawaiian Ocean View and Hookena)

Incumbent: Jeanne Kapela, Democrat
Challengers: Frederick F. Fogel, Libertarian; Chantel Makuaole-Perrin, Democrat; Ashley Oyama (Republican)



State Representative, District 6 (Honaunau, Napoopoo, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Keauhou, Holualoa and Kailua-Kona)

Incumbent: Kirstin Kahaloa, Democrat
Challengers: John F. Betlach, Democrat; Sylvie M. Madison, Republican

State Representative, District 7 (Kailua-Kona, Honokohau, Kalaoa, Puuanahulu, Puako and a portion of Waikoloa)

Incumbent: Nicole Lowen, Democrat
Challenger: Timothy A. (Tim) Dalhouse, Republican

State Representative, District 8 (Hawi, Halaula, Waimea, Makahalau, Waikii, Waikoloa, Kawaihae and Mahukona)

Incumbent: David A. Tarnas, Democrat
Challenger: Monique Cobb-Adams Perreira, Republican

Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaii resident trustee

Incumbent: none
Challengers: Z. Ka'apana Aki, Hope Alohalani Cermelj, Kaiali'i Kahele, Hulali Waltjen-Kuilipule

Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Molokai resident trustee

Incumbent: Luana Alapa
Challengers: Gayla Haliniak, Lu Ann Lankford-Faborito, R. Kunani Nihipali

Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kauai resident trustee

Incumbent: Dan Ahuna
Challengers: Laura A. Lindsey

Office of Hawaiian Affairs, At-large trustee

Incumbent: Keli'i Akina
Challengers: Lei Ahu Isa, Peter Apo, Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya, Leona M. Kalima, Larry Kawaauhau, Brendon Kalei'aina Lee

HAWAII COUNTY

Mayor

Incumbent: Mitch Roth
Challengers: Kimo Alameda, Daniel H. Cunningham, Kavin H. Kahikina, Yumi T.R. Kawano, Breeani Kobayashi, Jr Tupai

Prosecuting Attorney

Incumbent: Kelden Braun Akoni Waltjen
Challengers: none

Hawaii County Council, District 1 (North Hilo, Hamakua, and Portion of Waimea)

Incumbent: Heather L. Kimball
Challengers: Brittany Anderson, BJ Penn

Hawaii County Council, District 2 (Hilo, portions of South Hilo)

Incumbent: Jennifer (Jenn) Kagiwada
Challengers: Blaine Kenji Bautista, Grace Manipol, Gary, Jr. (Gigi) Napoleon

Hawaii County Council, District 3 (Portion of South Hilo and Portion of Kea'au)

Incumbent: none
Challengers: Kelton Chang, Dennis (Fresh) Onishi, Kaloa Robinson, Leomana Turalde

Hawaii County Council, District 4 (Lower Puna, Pahoia)

Incumbent: Ashley Kierkiewicz
Challengers: none

Hawaii County Council, District 5 (Upper Puna and portions of Keaau)

Incumbent: Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder
Challengers: Ikaika Rodenhurst, Haylie L. Taylor, Aaron Tolentino, Syssha-Marie Torres

Hawaii County Council, District 6 (Ka'u, portions of South Kona, Volcano)

Incumbent: Michelle M. Galimba
Challengers: Marie J. Burns, Kyle K. Jones, Ikaika Kailiawa-Smith

Hawaii County Council, District 7 (Portion of Kona and South Kona)

Incumbent: Rebecca A. Villegas
Challengers: Zahz Manawapou Hewlen, Joshua W. Montgomery, Wesley Moore, Jennifer Wilkinson

Hawaii County Council, District 8 (North Kona)

Incumbent: Holeka Goro Inaba
Challengers: Caryl Burns

Hawaii County Council, District 9 (Kohala, portions of Waimea)

Incumbent: Cindy Evans
Challengers: James E. Hustace, Michael J. Konowicz

Re-Elect
KIMBALL
 Hawaii County Council District 1
Heather Kimball shows up and gets to work, taking action to help people in our community
 — Miles Okumura

Experienced
 Effective
 Trusted

Proudly Endorsed By

Paid for by The Friends of Heather Kimball, PO Box 7, Papaikou 96781

vote
KEIKILANI HO
 HAWAII STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE- DISTRICT 4

He leo kū pono nō nā kānaka- A righteous voice for the people

Hawai'i is my Kuleana

Being born & raised in Hawai'i comes with great responsibility, and it takes a fearless leader to speak up to elected officials who forget who they serve.

Puna is a unique treasure that should be protected, and preserved. Puna deserves to prosper. Our agriculture & healthcare industry is in jeopardy. We need a safer environment for our children, & our people are leaving Hawai'i for better opportunities.

In order for change to happen, we need a strong voice that will fight for Puna, even if that means going against leadership. I am a Mother of 3, and it is my purpose in life to protect people.

Please vote for me. I need your support as I proactively hold our elected officials accountable. My goal is to make our voices count in all policy decision making, & government matters. We can't just hope for a better Hawai'i. We have to fight for a better Hawai'i. I will always fight for our people. It is my kuleana.

Paid for by The Friends of Keikilani Ho 16-566 Kea'au Pahoia Road 188-483, Kea'au, HI 96749