



NEWS RELEASE

May 14, 2020

KIA'ĀINA FILES ELECTION PAPERS FOR WINDWARD O'AHU COUNCIL SEAT TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 3

KAILUA, O'AHU – Longtime public servant Esther Kia'āina today filed her nomination papers for the City Council District 3 seat (Āhuimanu, He'eia, Ha'ikū, Kāne'ohe, Maunawili, Kailua, Olomana, Enchanted Lake, and Waimānalo). Kia'āina lives in Kailua and is ready to bring her government experience to the office.

“The City and County of Honolulu is facing daunting challenges, including how we address the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Kia'āina. “I believe my cumulative work experience and commitment to community can help the residents of the Windward region and all who call O'ahu home.”

Kia'āina added that her decision to run is also fueled by the encouragement and endorsements she's received from community and elected leaders in the district, including the region's State Senators.

Sen. Laura Thielen (D-25) stated, “We need experienced leaders like Esther who have the vision to help us move forward and the ability to help us navigate and work with our state and federal policymakers on this new world order.”

“Esther is one of the most effective and accomplished public servants we have in the state of Hawai'i,” said Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole (D-24). “She has a wealth of experience at the federal, state, and community levels. She will be a great asset to the City Council and the Windward side.”

Kia'āina has an unmatched depth of policy experience that will serve her well on the City Council if elected. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council, where she advances economic and social development in the Pacific Islands. Prior to this, she worked for President Barack Obama, serving as his Department of Interior Assistant Secretary. Her background also includes serving as First Deputy at Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources, Chief Advocate at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Land Asset Manager at the Kamehameha Schools, Chief of Staff for Congressmen Ed Case and Robert Underwood, and Legislative Assistant for Senator Daniel Akaka.

UH-Mānoa Professor at Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies and He'eia resident Lilikalā Kame'eiehiwa voiced her strong support for Kia'āina, “Esther is a woman of great integrity, who does her homework on issues and listens to the concerns of people. She also understands the values of aloha āina, which is critical in making decisions at the Council.”

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If elected, Kia'aina says she will address the following priorities:

- Public Health and Safety
- Cost of Living
- Homelessness
- Affordable Housing
- Diversified Economy
- Illegal Short-Term Rentals and Monster Homes
- Food Security

"I am grateful for the support of those who believe in my abilities to serve this district. If elected, I will work collaboratively with community members to ensure their voices are represented and heard," said Kia'aina.

Learn more about Esther Kia'aina at www.kiaaina.com.

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