



Bio for Chairman Reno Keoni Franklin

Chairman Reno Keoni Franklin is an enrolled member of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians. His family comes from the Kashaya villages of Dukashal and Aca Sine Cawa Li (Human Head Sitting). He was raised in a traditional Kashaya family and taught his culture, language and traditions from his elder family members and other respected Kashia Pomo tribal members. He is both American Indian and Hawaiian (Makaiwi Ohana). He is currently serving his 3rd term as tribal chairman.

Chairman Franklin has lived a majority of his life in service to his people. He started his career as a Fire Fighter stationed in Northern California in the beautiful town of Cedarville. His path of service led him back to his own Tribe, and in 2002, he returned home to work as environmental technician and tribal historic preservation officer.

Chairman Franklin followed multiple paths of service to tribal communities. In 2005 he was elected to a position of Vice Chair of Sonoma County Indian Health Project and then rose through elected ranks to eventually serve as the Chairman of the California Rural Indian Health Board (2008). In 2009 he became the first California Indian to be elected as Chairman of the National Indian Health Board. His work on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act led to the first reauthorization in more than 20 years and included modernizations and funding authorizations that all of Indian Country benefited from.

In 2009 Mr. Franklin was elected as the Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. His passion for tribal advocacy has taken him into many fields and he has been called on by Congress the President numerous times to provide expert witness testimony, assist in the development of federal, state and local policy and guide federal agencies in their tribal consultation process. In 2016, President Obama appointed Chairman Franklin to serve a 4 year term on the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, tasking him with providing a tribal perspective on historic preservation to the President and Congress, a position he continues to serve in today.

In 2015, Chairman Franklin led the negotiating team that brought back 880 acres of coastal property back to his tribe. Named the Kashia Coastal Reserve, this property was acquired for the Tribe with the assistance of a broad collection of Local and State agencies, combined with funding from numerous non government organizations. It was the first time in 150 years that the tribe returned to ownership of coastal lands along the beautiful Sonoma County coast. The project sparked hope for other tribes across the country.

Chairman Franklin is a proud father, a dedicated son and a humble servant to his people. He has taught his children the importance of service to others, speaking on behalf of those whose voice is forced to be silent and being prepared for the challenges that life will present.