

# National Indian Health Board



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NIHB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS RENO KEONI FRANKLIN AS NEW CHAIRMAN**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is pleased to announce that Mr. Reno Keoni Franklin was elected as the new Chairman of the Board by the NIHB Board of Directors January 9, 2009. Former Chairman H. Sally Smith, and Alaska Area representative on the NIHB Board, expressed her confidence in Mr. Franklin as he takes over leadership of the NIHB into a new year and a new Congress.

Mr. Franklin is a member of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians and the elected Health Delegate for his tribe. Mr. Franklin's family comes from the villages of Du Ka Shal and Aca Sine Cawal Li. He was raised in a traditional Kashaya Family and taught from birth the tools he would need to make it through this life. Mr. Franklin has spent the last five years on the Board of Directors of Sonoma County Indian Health and the last two on the executive board at California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB). He comes from a Fire Fighter/EMT background, having spent a number of years in that field and graduating college with an AS in Fire Science. He has spent a large part of his life proudly serving his Indian community; it is a task that he takes very serious. Today, he works for his own tribe as a Cultural Resources Director, Fire Management Officer and is one of 68 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in the United States.

H. Sally Smith will remain on NIHB's Board of Directors as its Alaska Area representative.

The Board Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. January 8-9, 2009 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

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