

30 July 2026

## Letter of Support Recognising the Indigenous Status of Te Kāhui Raraunga

Tēnā koe, ōtirā tēnā koutou,

*Ka mahara tonu tātou ki te hunga kua wehe atu ki te pō. Nā reira, kei ngā hou kōtuku kua whatia e te mate, e moe koutou i te anuanu, i te mātaotao, ā, kua tōkia ō koutou kiri e te tōmairangi, maranga rā kua mutu ngā mamaetanga o tēnei ao matemate. Ka tīkina atu ngā kupu nunui, haere ngā mate, haere, haere atu rā. Ka huri ki a tātou te hunga ora, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.*

I write this letter in support of Te Kāhui Raraunga's (TKR's) application to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for a generic Top Level Domain (gTLD). The National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF) was created in order to realise the advocacy of iwi Māori in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Over 80 iwi (tribes) are members of NICF, and together they formed several portfolios, each charged with leading matters of strategic importance to iwi-Māori- the indigenous people of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

TKR is the operational arm of one of these portfolios, known as the Data Iwi Leaders group. Under the mandate of the NICF, TKR are applying for the gTLD in order to realise the aspirations of iwi-Māori with regard to how our data is collected, stored, accessed, and used. TKR's aim is to enhance the social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being of Māori; to enable iwi, hapū and whānau Māori to access, collect and use Māori data.

For the TKR application, this letter confirms recognition of TKR as an Indigenous organisation by our organisation, Te Hiku Media, an Indigenous, tribal, broadcasting and data science organisation, based in Kaitaia. Furthermore, we support TKR's application as a significant step towards enabling iwi-Māori and global Indigenous data sovereignty. Te Hiku Media understands this is the very first Indigenous-led application providing an opportunity to allow for the expression of our tikanga (protocols) in the management of domain names.

Nāku noa, nā



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