

## KARUK TRIBE

### LETTER OF INTENT FOR CANDIDACY

Name of Candidate: Eli Hensher-Aubrey

Tribal Roll #:

Candidate For: Orleans District Member at Large

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Ayukii,

My name is Eli James Hensher-Aubrey and I am running for the Orleans District Member at Large. I am of Karuk, Konomihu, and Yurok decent and I am the son of Holly Hensher and Eli Grover Aubrey. On my mother's side I come from the village of Ko-tse-tsah at Methodist Creek in Forks of Salmon and on my father's side I am from Aubrey Creek near Happy Camp and the village of Pecwan in Yurok territory. I grew up in our Karuk Ancestral Territory, first living in Forks of Salmon then Orleans. I attended California State University Chico where I obtained my degree in Criminal Justice and after graduation I received a position at California Tribal TANF Partnership as the Region 1 Culture and Wellness Coordinator.

I am asking for the support of our tribal members in electing me onto Tribal Council because I believe I can bring new ideas and help strengthen the traditional cultural values that we as a people have. The Orleans District is rich in cultural resources and traditional spaces and if elected to Council I would put effort into upholding proper land stewardship, governing with cultural values, and emphasizing the physical and mental health of our people as well as our spiritual and cultural wellness. This includes putting more effort and resources into elder assistance and youth programs. I also believe there is room for economic development within the Tribe, in hopes that we can move away from relying so heavily on grants.

My experience and knowledge come from my work as a cultural practitioner for the Karuk people and from my numerous teachers who have guided me through cultural and tribal government experiences. I have spent my whole life working within our ancestral territory, specifically the Orleans District, whether it be ceremony, fisheries, or land management work. I believe I can offer good ideas and critical thinking if elected to council and want to use the tools I have to help our people.

I ask that you consider me for the Orleans District Member at Large when you go to vote in November.

Yootva,

Eli Hensher-Aubrey