**PARLIAMENT LETTER HEAD**

**PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS OFFICIAL RELEASE**

**Tuesday 20th April, 2021**

The Parliament of the Cook Islands has officially confirmed the appointment of Mr Tangata Vainerere to the position of Clerk of Parliament. Mr Vainerere received his Warrant of appointment, signed by the Queen’s Representative, Sir Tom Marsters today.

In making the decision to endorse the recommendation by a panel of qualified professionals representing a cross section of the Judiciary, Community and Parliament, the newly appointed Speaker of Parliament, Hon Tai Tura stated that he is pleased with the selection of the successful candidate and looks forward to working alongside Mr Vainerere during his term as Speaker.

“I believe in the ability of the new Clerk, said the Speaker”. He is a highly qualified individual knowledgeable in the operations and Management of Parliament. He brings a wealth of experience from a Regional perspective and his knowledge of how international Parliamentary systems work is instrumental in the development of a robust Parliament suited to the modern era. Notwithstanding, as a Taunga Korero qualified in our traditional customs, languages and dialects, Mr Vainerere is a great believer in all Members of Parliament being comfortable in the usage of their respective dialects during Parliamentary sittings, (something that is not lost on all the Members especially from the Northern Group islands).

As a Member of Parliament for Mauke, “I have benefitted greatly from his understanding of procedures during Parliamentary sittings” reiterated the Speaker. His transition into the role of Clerk during these challenging times with Covid-19 is a timely one and will assist the Members of Parliament (including myself), the staff and stakeholders as we navigate our way during the remainder of 2021 and into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all those involved in the various processes leading to the appointment of the new Clerk and most especially the staff of Parliament who have had to endure a period of time without a Clerk.

Mr Vainerere stated, “I appreciate the opportunity to serve Parliament again as Clerk, it’s Business as usual!”

**Media Release:**

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