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**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND HAWAII RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION
ENDORSE TRACY HANAYO Y.L. OKUBO FOR MAKIKI-TANTALUS HOUSE SEAT**

Honolulu – Seeking only the endorsements of organizations that truly encompass the priorities she feels are important to the State of Hawaii and the Makiki-Tantalus community, Tracy Hanayo Yuk Lan Okubo, candidate for the District 25 (Makiki-Tantalus) House seat being vacated by Rep. Brian Schatz, proudly announces her endorsements by the Hawaii Medical Association and Hawaii Restaurant Association.

“In order to be as truly independent as possible, I have strived to only secure the endorsements of the organizations that support my platform and legislative priorities,” said Okubo, 27, “Affordable quality healthcare is my number-one priority and I am honored that the Hawaii Medical Association Political Action Committee (HAMPAC) has recognized my commitment and advocacy for healthcare by choosing to endorse my candidacy for the Makiki-Tantalus House seat.”

As the Senior Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison for the State Department of Human Services (DHS), Okubo has established herself as a dedicated and effective advocate for healthcare. Most notably in 2005, Okubo drafted and successfully lobbied for passage of the landmark State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) bill. Earlier this year, Okubo helped lead the Medicare Part D Transition Team to minimize complications when prescription drug coverage for thousands of low-income seniors and disabled residents was switched from the State to the Federal government. The Federal government commended Hawaii for having the smoothest Medicare Part D transition in the country.

Okubo, who has spent nearly nine years in the restaurant and hospitality industry, most currently as a food server at award-winning 3660 On The Rise, also secured the endorsement of the Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA).

“After her many years in the restaurant business, Tracy has an astute understanding of the concerns of Hawaii’s restaurants, many of which are small businesses,” says Okubo’s employer, Gale Ogawa, 3660 On The Rise co-owner. “Even though she would have personally benefited financially, Tracy supported the position of Hawaii restaurants to restore the tip credit because she has a clear understanding of how businesses, particularly restaurants, run.”

“Like many of Hawaii’s residents, I work two jobs to help make ends meet,” stated Okubo. “I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to work in the restaurant and hospitality industry and am honored to earn HRA’s support in this election.”

Okubo strongly supports making Hawaii a more business-friendly State as a way to keep the State’s economy vibrant and healthy. “It is crucial that we support our State’s small businesses,” remarks Okubo. “We need to create an environment that fosters small businesses so that they can thrive.” According to the HRA, nearly 90 percent of Hawaii’s restaurants are considered small businesses.

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