



P.O. Box 2176, Honolulu, HI 96805-2176 * team.tracy@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR 06-01

Contact: Tracy Hanayo Y.L. Okubo
808.550.2691/team.tracy@yahoo.com

May 27, 2006

Honolulu -- Tracy Hanayo Yuk Lan Okubo, 26, has announced her intention to run for the House seat in the Makiki-Tantalus area (District 25). Okubo was born in the Makiki area and has made Makiki her home for the past four years.

Since 2004, Okubo has had the privilege of working with many like-minded, caring individuals at the State Department of Human Services (DHS), serving Hawaii's most vulnerable populations: the indigent, the elderly, the disabled and children with no families or who have suffered from abuse and/or neglect.

During her nearly three years at DHS, Okubo has worked closely with members of the State House and Senate in crafting legally sound, beneficial pieces of legislation. These measures achieve the goals of the Legislature, within the rules and regulations of the State and Federal governments, so DHS can continue to provide quality services for its many thousands of clients.

Okubo is best known for legislation that created vital initiatives such as Hawaii Rx Plus and the State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP), while maximizing Federal resources. She also helped increase access for DHS clients to psychotropic medication, as well as to immunosuppressant drugs that fight HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, while championing child welfare services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance programs.

Additionally, Okubo has helped implement Hawaii Rx Plus, SPAP, Medicare Part D, the Child Welfare Services Program Improvement Project, Supporting Employment Empowerment (SEE) and Reward Work. Moreover, she helped develop new support services for homeless families, including rental assistance. These efforts to serve the people of Hawaii have gained National recognition for their innovation and efficiency.

"Throughout my tenure at DHS, I have served as a strong advocate and intermediary for our clients. I engage the Legislature and the public in constructive dialogue that brings about better accountability and results in better services for the people.

"And most importantly, I advocate and educate on behalf of the needs of those who are truly in need.

"But I can do more. That is why I have chosen to run for the House seat in the Makiki-Tantalus area. I would like to build on my ability to advocate for the needs of our neediest residents and provide a voice for our community," said Okubo.

"I intend to utilize the partnerships I have developed over the years to continue my advocacy work. Additionally I would like to provide better protection for our citizens by strengthening the fight against crime and drugs, and continuing to stimulate our State economy for the benefit of this and future generations."

Okubo cites her broad bi-partisan background in State and Federal government as one of her biggest strengths as she strives to develop sound public policy that benefits all our residents.

In addition to working full-time for the State, Okubo works part-time in the hospitality industry and is a member of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Kam Society of Hawaii and the Hawaii Lupus Foundation.

###