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### **TRACY HANAYO YUK LAN OKUBO MAKES CANDIDACY FOR MAKIKI-TANTALUS SEAT OFFICIAL**

Honolulu -- Armed with the signatures of more than 100 Makiki-Tantalus residents, Republican candidate Tracy Hanayo Yuk Lan Okubo made her candidacy for the Makiki-Tantalus House seat official today by filing nomination papers. Incumbent Brian Schatz, whom Okubo challenged in 2004, is vacating the seat this year to run for Congress.

In her role at the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS), Okubo has developed a reputation as someone who works closely with members of the State House and Senate in crafting legally sound, beneficial pieces of legislation.

Okubo, 26, is best known for helping create and implement vital initiatives such as Hawaii Rx Plus and the State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP), while working to maximize federal resources. She also helped increase access for DHS clients to psychotropic medications and 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 improved the lives of needy residents by helping implement Hawaii Rx Plus, SPAP, Medicare Part D, the Child Welfare Services Program Improvement Plan (PIP), Supporting Employment Empowerment (SEE Hawaii Work) and the Reward Work Initiative. 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.

"The people of our State needs someone like Tracy to champion the needs of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations, including the indigent, the elderly, the disabled and children who have suffered from abuse and/or neglect." said Okubo's boss, Lillian B. Koller.

In addition to her advocacy and commitment to serving our State's most vulnerable populations, Okubo is also known for her stance on strengthening our criminal prosecution laws, increasing Federal funding for programs, and restoring trust in government.

The recent murder of a cab driver and a local couple, and in-home robbery, up on the Tantalus mountain side earlier this month has only strengthened Okubo's commitment to fighting crime.

"Our residents deserve to feel safe in their own homes or while doing their jobs. For too long the concerns of the Tantalus community have gone unmet," said Okubo, who was also distantly related to the slain Kapahulu couple. "I have some innovative ideas that will decrease the unwanted traffic up on the Tantalus mountain side, which should also reduce the number of crime, while generating funds to help preserve its historical natural beauty."

"Tracy is an honorable and committed young woman who will serve our District with honor and integrity. I support Tracy wholeheartedly in her efforts to represent our community in the State Legislature," said long-time Makiki resident Harriett Gray.

Okubo cites her broad bi-partisan background in State and Federal government programs as one of her biggest strengths as she strives to develop sound public policy benefiting all Hawaii 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.

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