



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process: Ms. Tiffany L. Frias at tiffany.frias@k12.hi.us or (808) 305-9774.

For general information about the United States Senate Youth Program: Program Director Ms. Rayne Guilford at rquilford@hearstfdn.org or (800) 425-3632.

Hawaii Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program
Students to Participate in Online Program and to Receive \$10,000 Scholarship

January 11, 2022, Washington, D.C. —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announces that high school students Mr. Joshua Toshio Maka'ala Ching and Mr. Enjl Melchizedek Himoya will join Senator Brian Schatz and Senator Mazie Hirono in representing Hawaii during the 60th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 6 — 9, 2022. Joshua Ching of Waipahu and Enjl Melchizedek Himoya of Hilo were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation who will each also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2022 program will be held online, through a comprehensive and highly interactive virtual education and leadership forum.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 and has been sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception. Originally proposed by Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey, the Senate leadership of the day, the impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony is "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world.

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program provides the most outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - with an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of USSYP student delegates more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, The Hearst Foundations provide each student with a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. All expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations; as stipulated in S.Res.324, no government funds are utilized.

Joshua Ching, a senior at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, serves as the president of the Student Body. As a young Native Hawaiian, he has fought hard to promote social equity, public health, and civic engagement in his communities through public action. At school, he leads efforts to provide an outlet for political involvement as founder and president of the Advocacy Club and captain of the debate team, through which he has received international titles and awards. His activism continues as a leading spokesperson for the nationally-recognized Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Youth Council, where he advocates for legislation that regulates the tobacco industry, while also heading grassroots social justice initiatives with Mobilize Against Tobacco Lies and Youth For O'ahu. Previously, Joshua interned at the Office of the Public Defender and represented Honolulu as a delegate to the National League of Cities. Interested in politics and law, he is committed to cultivating a just world for all.

(more)

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

2022 Hawaii Delegate Announcement
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Page -2-

Enjl Melchizedek Himoya, a senior at Hilo High School, serves as first vice president of the Student Association. Elected to student government for the past four years, he continues to serve his peers in positions in school and for the state. As chair of the Hawaii State Council, he represents nearly 170,000 students where he supports youth initiatives and promotes leadership training. He is also a dedicated leader in JROTC and heads a variety of co-curricular activities. His efforts have not gone unnoticed having received numerous service awards. Enjl is interested in government and politics and worked as an intern at the Hawaii County Mayor's Office creating digital content. He is eager to represent Hawaii and his hometown of Hilo, and wants others to know that Hawaii is not just a small island state but a powerhouse for youth intellectual wealth.

Chosen as alternates to the 2022 program were Ms. Taylor D. Fukunaga, a resident of Ewa Beach, who attends Waipahu High and Mr. Maverick H. Yasuda, also a resident of Waipahu, who attends Waipahu High.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education nationwide and the District of Columbia and Department of Defense Education Activity, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Hawaii delegates and alternates were designated by Keith T. Hayashi, Interim State Superintendent.

During the program week, the student delegates will attend online meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, among others.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. Now more than 6,000 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni are: Senator Susan Collins, the first alumna to be elected U.S. senator; Secretary of Transportation and former Mayor of South Bend Indiana, Pete Buttigieg; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumna to be elected U.S. senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first alumna to be elected governor; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt, former presidential advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional notables include former Lt. Governor of Idaho David Leroy, Provost of Wake Forest University Rogan Kersh, military officers, members of state legislatures, Foreign Service officers, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and other university educators.

Members of the U. S. Senate Youth Program 2022 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Christopher A. Coons of Delaware, Democratic Co-Chair; Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine, Republican Co-Chair; Advisory Members: Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM); Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley (D-OR); Senator Tina Smith (D-MN); Senator Mark R. Warner (D-VA); Senator Mike Braun (R-IN); Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); Senator James M. Inhofe (R-OK); and Senator M. Michael Rounds (R-SD). Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders.

For more information please visit: www.ussenateyouth.org
