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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hawaii State Bar Association Launches Leadership Institute for Attorneys

On July 1, the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) will launch its first Leadership Institute. Over a six-month period, the program fellows will be introduced to a variety of issues and responsibilities and to leaders in the legal profession, with the goal of developing leadership tools to excel in Hawaii's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural environment. Fellows will have the opportunity to meet with and interact with members of the Hawaii bench, legislators, government officials and civic and business leaders.

“Our members need to be well-equipped to face the challenges the legal profession faces in Hawaii's diverse environment. This interactive program will enhance those skills essential for success, especially in a diverse community and challenging economy,” said Rai Saint Chu, President of HSBA. The Institute also stresses the importance of community leadership. “The legal profession has a duty to serve the communities in which we live. This program will enhance personal as well as professional skills for not only the fellows, but all of our Hawaii State Bar Association leaders who are involved” added Chu.

The Institute's inaugural class of fellows will include:

- Jarod Buna, Department of the Attorney General of Hawaii
- Norman Cheng, Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher
- Browning Clark, Department of the Attorney General, Family Law Division
- Levi Hookano, Office of the County Clerk, County of Hawaii
- Franz Juan, Juan & Tanimoto LLLC

- Courtney Kajikawa, Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert
- Jane Kwan, Law Offices of Frank K. Goto, Jr.
- Lisa Nakahara, Kobayashi Sugita & Goda
- Nathan Nelson, Carlsmith Ball LLP
- Maura Okamoto, Department of the Attorney General, Employment Law Division
- Elizabeth Paek, Attorney-at-Law
- Nathalie Pettit, Char Hamilton Campbell & Yoshida
- Jesse Souki, City and County of Honolulu, Dept. of the Corporation Counsel
- Elmira Tsang, O'Connor Playdon & Guben LLP
- Mark Valencia, Case Lombardi & Pettit

“We had a tough time selecting only 15 fellows from among the many qualified applicants, said Chu. “We are excited to see such interest in the Institute and very pleased with the diversity of this first class. It’s clear that our attorneys are committed to improving themselves as well as their communities. We look forward to opening a dialogue on leadership within the HSBA as a whole as we and this group look at the skills involved in developing leadership potential over the next six months.”

The Hawaii State Bar Association is a nonprofit organization that serves over 7,000 attorneys registered in the state of Hawaii. The organization’s mission is to unite and inspire Hawaii’s lawyers to promote justice for all. To learn more, visit www.hsba.org.

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