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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **STUDENTS ACHIEVE IN THE HAWAIʻI HISTORY DAY STATE VIRTUAL FAIR**

[INSERT DATE], 2022

The 2022 Hawaiʻi History Day State Fair featured 269 students from 31 schools, fourth grade to twelfth grade, from Hawaiʻi, Kauaʻi, Maui, and Oʻahu. Hawaiʻi History Day is a rigorous student-centered competition, where students are challenged beyond textbooks and standardized tests and formally present their work in the form of essay, display board, website, documentary, or performance. Student projects are judged by representatives from a variety of fields representing our communities across the islands.

[INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL/TEACHER/FAMILY] is so proud to announce that this year, [INSERT NAME OF STUDENT(S)], placed [INSERT PLACEMENT] in the state fair. [INSERT NAME OF STUDENT(S)]’s project explored [INSERT PROJECT TOPIC]. [OPTIONAL: INSERT QUOTE FROM STUDENT/TEACHER/PARENT]

“Hawaiʻi History Day is about community, connection, and the exchange of knowledge through storytelling, connecting our histories to our everyday lives and sparking inspiration for the future. These community connections and storytelling exchanges have been particularly crucial for our students as they endured constant schedule changes and profound isolation during online learning through the COVID pandemic, which has really hit our educational community hard.” says Shannon Cristobal, Director of Hawaiʻi History Day.

Winners will go on to compete at the national competition on June 12-16, 2022. This year, there are 32 students representing Hawaiʻi in this nation-wide virtual event. Their projects capture the human experience, showcasing the complex historical contexts that have led to the ideas which have become so ingrained in our everyday lives. In one student-produced performance piece, they explored how rap music has united communities and provided people a means of expression to comment on social injustice. In a student-produced documentary, they grappled with the inequities between wealthy nations and poorer nations in policy discussions around climate change. As we enter into a new phase of living with COVID, it is a real gift to witness stories from our past of our yearning, our fears, our convictions, our heartbreaks, our joys, and our loves as a community.

“When students do history day, they become expert detectives; writers; artists; storytellers. They find bits and pieces of a story, and bring them together to create a different one. This story they tell has a part of them in it, so it is special in that way. We may hear the same stories over the

years, but the voices telling them are different. And sometimes, something very special happens…and someone tells a story that no one has ever heard before,” says Devin Makizuru, Hawaiʻi History Day Assistant Coordinator.

**About Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities:**

With the help of hundreds of volunteer teachers, families, and judges, Hawai‘i History Day has helped Hawaiʻi’s youth learn and speak about the complex stories that enrich our lives and build resilience in our communities. Hawai‘i History Day, an affiliate of National History Day, is run by the Hawaiʻi Council for the Humanities (HIHumanities), a nonprofit organization committed to connecting people with ideas that expand and deepen perspectives, enrich lives, and strengthen community.