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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honolulu Student to Study Chinese in Taiwan on U.S. Department of State NSLI-Y Scholarship

Alexandra Jackson, a Punahou high school student in Honolulu, Hawaii, has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship for 2018-19 by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Alexandra will study Chinese in Taiwan for the Summer. Alexandra, competitively selected out of over 3,300 applications from across the United States, is one of approximately 670 students who will study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Indonesian or Russian overseas this coming year. While in Taiwan, Alexandra will receive formal language instruction, live with a host family and experience the local culture as part of an immersion environment.

Alexandra will be a sophomore at Punahou School in the fall, and previously attended Montessori Community School through 6th grade. She credits both schools for providing environments that promote independence and a love of learning. Alexandra has been studying Mandarin since the age of 4 and looks forward to this next step towards acquiring proficiency.

The NSLI-Y program is part of a multi-agency U.S. Government initiative launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to communicate in select critical languages to advance international dialogue and increase American economic global competitiveness. NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, AMIDEAST, iEARN-USA, the Russian American Foundation, Stony Brook University, the University of Delaware, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the University of Wisconsin.

Applications for 2019-20 NSLI-Y programs are expected to be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the late summer. For information about all U.S. Department of State exchange programs for American high school students, visit <https://exchanges.state.gov/highschool>.

