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HPA senior selected as 2011 Horatio Alger National Scholar

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Malachi Kobayashi, a senior at Hawaii Preparatory Academy has been selected as a 2011 Horatio Alger National Scholar. Kobayashi is one of 104 high school seniors — and the only student from Hawaii — to receive the national award from the Horatio Alger Association.

Each student will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to a four-year school of his or her choice and will be honored at the Horatio Alger Awards ceremony April 6-10 in Washington, D.C..

As a 2011 National Scholar, Kobayashi will travel to Washington, D.C. for an all-expense paid trip to the National Scholars Conference. During the four-day event, the scholars will attend college preparation sessions, listen to esteemed speakers, participate in ceremonies at the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Department of State and DAR Constitution Hall, and meet with the 2011 Horatio Alger Award recipients who will be recognized for their success stories.

Horatio Alger National Scholars are selected because each has faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives while demonstrating strength of character, a commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society. The National Scholars are among the best and most determined youth in America.

“We are proud to welcome our 2011 National Scholars. These young individuals have persevered through great adversities in their lives, and they clearly represent the Horatio Alger ideals,” said Tony Novelly, president and CEO, Horatio Alger Association. “The association is proud to help deserving students find continued success in education and throughout life.”

Kobayashi is the son of Mark and Sarah Kobayashi of Kapaa. He is a certified lifeguard and has been active with the Boy Scouts and junior lifeguarding programs. At HPA, he is a Student Ambassador and a captain on the boys varsity soccer team, which he joined as a freshman.

“I’m very thankful for this scholarship and the many opportunities it will provide for me,” said Kobayashi. “I’m looking forward to visiting Washington, D.C. for the first time and meeting the other award recipients.”

Kobayashi plans to attend school in California and major in public relations or communications.

The Horatio Alger Scholarship Program is one of the largest need-based scholarship programs in the country and the association annually awards nearly \$7 million in college scholarships in the United States.

Founded in 1947, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans continues to fulfill its mission of honoring the achievements of outstanding individuals in our society who have succeeded in spite of adversity and of encouraging young people to pursue their dreams through higher education.

The Horatio Alger Association offers three annual scholarship programs: the National Scholarship Program, state scholarship programs, and graduate grants.

The association will have awarded more than \$87 million in scholarships through 2012 to deserving young people determined to earn college degrees.