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To: Interested Parties

Subject: New Polling Shows Lt. Governor Green’s Strong Lead 6 Months Ahead of Democratic Primary for Hawaii Gubernatorial Race

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A new Public Policy Polling survey of likely Democratic primary voters in Hawaii finds Lieutenant Governor Josh Green leading his closest opponent by double digits in the primary race for Governor. When asked to choose between Green, former First Lady Vicky Cayetano, former Mayor Kirk Caldwell, and current U.S. Representative Kai Kahele, almost half (46%) of voters say they would vote for Green, with 25% unsure. He has a 32-point lead (46-14) over his closest opponent Kai Kahele, a 36-point lead (46-10) over Cayetano, and a 41-point lead (46-5) over Caldwell. When the race is narrowed to just Green, Cayetano, and Kahele, 48% of voters support Lt. Governor Green, and he leads Kahele by 31 points (48-17) and Cayetano by 38 points (48-10). The numbers are even more favorable for Green when the race is between just him, Cayetano, and Caldwell: he earns majority (52%) support and has a 40-point lead over closest opponent Cayetano.

Green’s lead may be attributed to a strong approval rating for his job performance as Lieutenant Governor, especially when it comes to handling the COVID-19 pandemic. 65% of voters approve of his overall job performance as Lieutenant Governor, while just 16% disapprove. When it comes to handling COVID-19, 70% of voters approve of the job Green has done, while just 17% disapprove.

The other candidates, by contrast, have low name recognition, low favorability ratings, or both. Caldwell has a net-negative favorability rating of 20 points (22-42) and Cayetano’s favorability is underwater by 9 points (22-31), while Kahele has 24-point net positive favorability rating (41-17). All three candidates have lower name recognition, with 36% to 46% of voters unsure if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- While Green earns approval from a majority across all age groups, he is especially popular among seniors: 75% of voters older than 65 approve of his overall job performance and 79% approve of his handling of COVID-19.
- The top issues for likely Democratic primary voters are inflation (18%), jobs and the economy (17%), responding to COVID-19 (14%), and climate change (14%).

Public Policy Polling surveyed 644 likely Democratic primary voters in Hawaii from February 8-9, 2022. The margin of error is +/- 3.9%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.