



HAWAII

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Punahou Senior Named 2021 Distinguished Young Woman of Hawaii

Honolulu, HI. Cosette Wu, 18, of Honolulu was named the 2021 Distinguished Young Woman (DYW) of Hawaii on Sunday, December 6th and awarded \$7,500 in cash scholarships at the 62nd annual statewide scholarship program. This year's event was a digital showcase where participants were evaluated in the categories of Scholastics (25%), Interview (25%), Talent (20%), Fitness (15%) and Self-Expression (15%).

Cosette, the daughter of Samuel Wu and Kristen Lee, won a \$4,500 cash scholarship, a trip to the Distinguished Young Women National Finals, a 4-year tuition scholarship to Hawaii Pacific University (HPU), and wardrobe for Nationals from Jams World. Cosette also took home additional cash scholarships of \$1,000 each as the Top Scholar, as an Interview awardee, and as a Talent winner for her classical piano performance.

Cosette will have the opportunity to win a \$30,000 cash scholarship when she represents Hawaii in June at the National Finals in Mobile, Alabama. In the fall, she hopes to attend Harvard College.

Sophia Stark of Honolulu, was 1st runner-up and was awarded a \$3,500 cash scholarship and a \$12,000 HPU tuition scholarship. Stark also won \$1,000 for an Interview award, and \$500 each for a Fitness and Be Your Best Self Essay awards. Sophia is the daughter of Darel and Georgine Stark, and is homeschooled by her parents.

The 2nd runner-up award went to Ellie Sampson, a senior at Punahou School and the daughter of Jeffery Sampson and Shizuho Omori. Ellie won a \$2,500 cash scholarship and a \$12,000 HPU tuition scholarship. She also received a \$500 Self Expression award.

Jiana Abela Nakashima, a Mililani High School senior, was the 3rd runner-up and the recipient of a \$1,500 cash scholarship and a \$12,000 HPU tuition scholarship. In addition, Jiana won \$500 each in cash scholarships for Fitness and Self Expression awards. She is the daughter of Wayne and Kim Abela Nakashima.

Other award winners include: Alyse Glaser, Sacred Hearts Academy - \$1,000 Scholastic runner-up; Isabella Gismundo-Hook, Mililani High School - \$1,000 Talent award for her color guard routine performance.

Josette Huang, Distinguished Young Woman of Hawaii for 2020 and a recent graduate of Punahou School, participated in the virtual telecast as well. She is currently a freshman at the University of Chicago.

The virtual State Finals can be viewed on the Distinguished Young Women of Hawaii Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dywhawaii>

About Distinguished Young Women

DYW of Hawaii is the state's longest running scholarship program for high school senior girls, providing students opportunities to earn \$20,000 in cash scholarships, 4-year college scholarships, and many other awards provided by local sponsors. The non-profit scholarship program, which was previously called Hawaii's Junior Miss (HJM), is run entirely by volunteers, and is available to high school senior girls across the state.

For more information about Distinguished Young Women of Hawaii or to arrange an interview with Cosette Wu, please contact DYW Hawaii Co-Chairperson Lynn Uehara at hawaii@distinguishedyw.org.