



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK DONATES \$100,000 TOWARD  
GIRL SCOUTS OF HAWAII'S STEM CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE**

**HONOLULU (July 28, 2021)** – American Savings Bank (ASB) recently surprised Girl Scouts of Hawaii (GSH) with a \$100,000 donation to support its [STEM Center for Excellence at Camp Paumalu](#), bringing GSH one step closer to meeting its fundraising goal.

In 2019, GSH set out to construct a brand new, 135-acre living laboratory, located on Oahu's North Shore. The facility will provide year-round opportunities in cybersecurity, astronomy, robotics, computer coding, botany, chemistry, environmental stewardship, and more. Young women will be able to enjoy outdoor adventures while exploring science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers through on-site experiments.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, GSH received extensive monetary and in-kind support and was on the fast track to complete their facility by the end of 2020. The capital campaign was impacted when the pandemic hit, but GSH is committed to raising the \$8.3 million needed to fully fund the center.

"We are so grateful to American Savings Bank for their generous donation and continued commitment to enhance STEM education in Hawaii," said Shari Chang, Chief Executive Officer at GSH. "This center will not only provide our young women with top-notch STEM education, it will also increase the number of high paying STEM jobs and expand related industries in Hawaii for generations to come."

In January 2020, ASB selected GSH as the beneficiary of its annual Hawaii Curling Club fundraiser. However, both charity curling events in 2020 and 2021 were canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, so ASB came up with a creative way to announce their support. "At ASB, nearly 70 percent of our teammates are women and we know firsthand the tremendous things women and girls – especially those who are proficient in STEM – can accomplish when provided the right education, opportunities and support," said Beth Whitehead, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at ASB. "We are proud to support Girl Scouts of Hawaii's STEM Center for Excellence, which will provide valuable skills and resources to our community."

On July 8, ASB pranked GSH's Chief Executive Officer Shari Chang and Board Chair Lori Teranishi by inviting them to a fictitious Aala Park clean up. When they arrived, Whitehead and the ASB team surprised GSH with a \$100,000 check presentation, but not before taking them on bit of a wild goose chase. Click [here](#) for a video of the surprise.

"It was such an unexpected yet wonderful surprise!" Teranishi said. "With American Saving Bank's donation, we are less than \$3 million away from the finish line. We are so close! Our young women are depending on us to complete this project and we are dedicated to making this happen for them."

-more-

The STEM Center for Excellence is anticipated to open this fall. Naming opportunities are still available for select areas of the STEM Center. For more information on how to support this project, please visit [the STEM Center for Excellence website](https://www.gshawaii.org) or email [gsdevelopment@gshawaii.org](mailto:gsdevelopment@gshawaii.org).

### Check Presentation Photos



*From left to right: Ann Teranishi, American Savings Bank President and CEO, Shari Chang, Girl Scouts of Hawaii CEO, Lori Teranishi, Girl Scouts of Hawaii Board Chair, and Beth Whitehead, American Savings Bank, EVP and Chief Administrative Officer.*



### About Girl Scouts of Hawai'i

Supporting over 5,000 girl and adult members statewide, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i (GSH) builds girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place. GSH's headquarters is located on the island of O'ahu, with three neighbor island service centers on the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui. GSH is chartered by the national office, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and is responsible for the leadership, administration and supervision of Girl Scout programs in the state of Hawai'i. For more information about GSH, visit [www.gshawaii.org](http://www.gshawaii.org) or call (808) 595-8400.

###

### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Becker Communications, Inc.

Jocelyn Collado

[jocelyn@beckercommunications.com](mailto:jocelyn@beckercommunications.com)

(808) 392-5737 – cell